

RECEIVED
JAN 09 2013
City Manager's Office

Hon. Mayor Karen Weitkunat

City Council

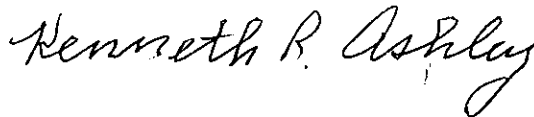
Fort Collins, Colorado

Dear Mayor Weitkunat:

My home is MacKenzie place where Mrs. Ashley and I are two of dozens of citizens in the over 90 age group. We, and several others we talked with, are very much opposed to the scheme suggesting that the City employ eminent domain to eliminate Sears from the Mall. Mr. Kelley Meyer, Sears District Manager, makes a number of pertinent points in his excellent "Soap Box" in the January 7 Coloradoan. One was that Sears has been a valuable part of the Fort Collins Community for 40 years. But for those of us here, Sears is an American icon, dating back to 1886, when it was established as a modest watch and clock business. It grew rapidly and issued its first general catalog in 1896. (we called it the "Wish Book") I recall visiting the outhouse on my Grandparent's farm and thumbing through the previous year's wish book looking at items that covered about every need one could imagine.

Among other things, Sears introduced Craftsman Tools, Allstate Insurance and Kenmore Appliances. Sears also sponsored the Womens' National Basketball Association. We should value Sears much the same as we do a Historic Building. Instead of looking for ways to eliminate Sears we should make every effort to preserve this great Company by retaining its presence in Fort Collins. As a City we are fortunate to have them and that they wish to stay with us.

Sincerely,



Kenneth R. Ashley

4750 Pleasant Oak Dr, Apt 339

Fort Collins, Colorado

Ph. 223-3255

January 7, 2013