

JUMBO VALLEY RESORT RECEIVES MAJOR SETBACK*Kootenay residents claim critical victory for local democracy.*

(Cranbrook, BC) The Jumbo Glacier Resort speculators received a major setback today in a near unanimous decision by the Regional District Directors to give East Kootenay residents the opportunity to make their voice heard on the future of Jumbo Valley.

In a surprise decision, what had been once predicted as a close vote to give the resort decision back to the province, only the Mayors of Sparwood and Kimberley spoke out in favour of relinquishing local decision.

Jumbo Glacier Resort Vice-President and spokesman Grant Costello petitioned the board to “... eliminate another costly, redundant and time consuming regulatory process” — to fast track the resort by sending the decision to Victoria, thereby eliminating any opportunity for public input.

However, a standing-room only crowd spilling into the halls of the Regional District offices erupted into loud cheers and clapping as, with the exception of one director, the Board rejected the motion to send the decision back to Victoria.

“Today has been a landmark day for Jumbo, but most importantly, for the voice of East Kootenay residents,” said John Bergenske, spokesperson for JumboWild. “Our Directors today demonstrated that they do indeed listen to their constituents, and have chosen to give residents a chance to voice their opinions and concerns — to have a final say in the fate of Jumbo Valley.”

“We recognize that a final decision determining the fate of Jumbo has not been made,” said Bergenske. “However, by allowing the residents to actively and publicly participate in the decision making process, we strongly believe that one more nail has been pounded into the coffin of this unpopular resort proposal. We’ve kept it local. Now we need to keep it wild.”

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