

Monday, September 1st, 2014—Final week of petition signing.

Root shares update with dozens of petition signers thus far; open communication letter of 8-31-2014 was attached, as well as letter-to-editor of the *Herald*, encouraging others to write letters and get the people out to sign the petition. Pat prepares to camp outside DNF from 9 am to 9 pm to gather signatures and talk to shoppers about what is happening with DNF.

In time-chronological order (not reverse email reply order)

Date: 9/01/2014 1:36 PM [Monday—one week to go of petition signing]
From: Root
To: DNF Petition Signers [to date]
Subject: DNF Petition Signers – Thanks for your support! Important info attached

Dear DNF Petition Signers,

Thank you all so much for your support! We have several dozen signatures so far; but we need more... **a lot more**. Even to hold a “Special Meeting” of owners requires a petition “signed by at least ten percent of owners”, which means at least 180 valid signatures. What we need is to urgently increase the visibility of this issue, since the voting closes midnight Sunday, September 7th.

So, Pat Blair and I are asking you if you could write letters to the Durango Herald, masses of them waiting for Bill Roberts Tuesday when he comes in, right away in support of the petition to remove this DNF Board of Directors, which is doing so much damage to DNF. Also, seek out any other members you know and ask them to sign the petition and do the same regarding letters of support. We really need *active* “activists” right now. The Herald will be overwhelmed, so getting them out today or tomorrow in order to have a chance of getting them in this week would be crucial.

I have attached my 350 word letter which I wrote yesterday, Sunday. I spoke with Bill Roberts, o-ed/letter editor, this morning (just happened to be in on Labor Day) and he said there are about 40 letters ahead of me. But when I explained the time-urgency in order for people to see it, act and reply, he said though tomorrow (Tuesday) is already filled, he’d “try to get it out as quickly as possible,” which is about the best commitment you can get from an editor. If he sees lots coming in (express the time urgency) and put “High Importance” priority on your email (to Letters@DurangoHerald.com), maybe they’ll create more room. Mine’s 350 words because there’s a lot I need to inform people about; but probably the shorter the letter of support (keep reminding people petition voting ends Sunday midnight), the better chance to get it in.

Also, I’ve left a voice message with the Durango Telegraph people letting them know I would like to get a more lengthy piece in than usual (I sent the “Open-Communication...” letter attached) in Thursday’s edition. If I need to cut it down, I’ll do that. Their paper comes out every Thursday, so very little time. Send short letters of support to the Telegraph, email: Telegraph@DurangoTelegraph.com .

Now let me share with you a few of the supportive comments we’ve received from you guys on the petition.

"I appreciate the time and energy that was provided to create the supporting analysis documentation for DNF members. Thank you for your courage and bravery to take these next steps to help maintain DNF as a LOCAL cooperative for all to enjoy."

"It is sad that "Power" seems to go to people's heads."

"Although I appreciate the board members' time and effort, I believe realigning with the original DNF vision of 1974: "local membership voice, local management information always open to members, local ownership and local quality low-cost food" is imperative."

"Our local Durango community is the heart of DNF."

"Thank You so much for bringing this to our attention. I knew some of what was going on by reading the Durango Herald. This is so important."

"Thank you for taking this on and everyone's hard work! I have been a DNF Member since around 1980. I remember working as a volunteer to pay off my monthly membership. Great memories and experiences."

"Please keep our food as local, and affordable, as possible. Thank you for your involvement and proactive approach!"

"I am a new co-op member but I was amazed that suddenly the co-op was going to merge with another entity. This MUST go to a vote of the membership."

"I have been a volunteer/ member/ shopper since 1991 and I proudly support the vision of "member owned locally operated and supported" ! Way to hold tight on what our goals really aim to serve and passing on the choice to compete with other local businesses by selling out."

"I served on the Board in the 90's and also did all the accounting and tax work during my 5 year stint. DNF did well, but Natures O hadn't really started, or /vitamin Cottage. Let me know if there is anything I can do to help."

"The board does not represent me. Keep DNF local! DNF has a wonderful staff and they have been doing a good job!"

"I absolutely want to keep DNF local, do not want to merge with another entity, and want to keep the current managers who are doing a very good job. I agree with everything stated in this petition."

"Let's make this happen!"

"Let's save DNF!"

"Heard Kim was fired and no surprise. The truth is shocking and a shame"

Indeed, Kim has been fired already (see my attached letters) and Brian was made GM. The Board is definitely digging in for a fight against the members (unbelievable!); it's the ripest time in DNF memory

to stand together in solidarity, and that will take everyone's effort to get the word out and petition signed. They can be signed online or on paper at DNF.

Pat is organizing a petition signing table at DNF that will be there every day staffed by volunteers from 9 am to 9 pm. If you can help with that effort, here's Pat's email address:
prblair@bresnan.net

Thanks again so much, DNF members. You guys on this email are already onboard with your signature. I'll be sending another email to members I know who haven't signed yet. Spread the word and let's get this done to save DNF and Kim's job.

Best regards,
Root