

E.B. Chester

August 6, 2010

Letter to Rapid City Journal

I just read the article posted on the internet referring to a formal complaint being filed against Hoka Hey organizers, Jim and Beth Durham.

I participated in the entire event. I rode the route and finished approximately 115th. I didn't do it for the money, but was always competitive in my approach to the ride.

I know of nothing associated with the race that was "disrespectful," "intimidating" or that fit any other derogatory description used in this report. I know different people can see the same event and have different reactions but mine were all positive. The organizers did exactly what I expected and the Challenge, or race if you prefer, was a complete success. It was the single best use of one thousand dollars in my lifetime.

I understand that the prize money has been paid. I have no independent confirmation of this, but have some evidence it is a fact. If this is a fact, it may serve to dispel some of the negative press surrounding this event.

I simply thought you might like to hear a positive voice supporting the event. It was an extraordinary success.

~ E.B. Chester