

01PD035

A. Louise Kelley  
1919 Highwood Rd.  
Rapid City, SD 57701

June 27, 2001

RECEIVED

JUN 28 2001

Rapid City Planning Department  
300 6th Street  
Rapid City, SD 57701

Rapid City  
Planning Department

The purpose of this letter is to convey my feelings regarding the proposed rezoning of land on the west side of Highway 16, adjacent to the Sodak Gaming land, from Commercial to Medium Density which would allow for multi-family dwellings.

As a landowner in the vicinity, I strongly object to multi-family dwellings being located along Highway 16. It would increase traffic considerably, causing more congestion. At the present time, access and egress to the highway is becoming a very real problem. The closing of the access to the service road near the cemetery and only providing a combined access to both the Calvary Baptist Church and the Zion Lutheran Church has created a hazardous traffic situation. It is further complicated by all the traffic going to and from the commercial establishments, to say nothing of the impact from tourists.

Furthermore, it would place additional demands on city services and infrastructure at a time when funds are limited, monies are being allocated to projects years in advance of the funds being available, property taxes are already unreasonably high and the existing services aren't adequate to meet current demands placed on them. The condition of Tower Road is, or should be, an embarrassment to the City and its residents. Nevertheless, it has been ignored since the new highway was built. Other streets and drainage need to be rebuilt as well.

I am not opposed to orderly growth with much thought and planning given to all aspects of the plan or proposal. However, I am very much against this race to develop all land, regardless of the impact or consequences it may have, for the sole purpose of furthering someone's wealth.

There is a concerted effort to tout the beauty of the Black Hills and to present Rapid City as the beautiful gateway to the west. What kind of an image is projected when one drives south on Mt. Rushmore Road to the top of the hill, continuing south on Highway 16, only to observe the hodgepodge of cluttered commercial buildings, obtrusive signs and tourist establishments, which distract and prevent people from observing the lovely view of the Black Hills? There are a limited number of attractive establishments along the route but they are overshadowed by all the clutter. The proposal to allow multi-family dwellings would further distract from the area.

I urge you to consider the matter carefully and to deny the petition, scheduled for hearing on July 5, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,

*A. Louise Kelley*