

March 18, 2004

Planning Department
300 Sixth Street
Rapid City, SD 57701

Dear Planning and Zoning,

Recently it has become public – though no formal application has been submitted – that the intended use of sw ¼ of Section 22 is a location for a minimum-security prison. I am writing as an area landowner and businessperson to express my deep concern for such a plan. I know my concerns are shared by my neighbors.

We understand that “minimum security” houses convicts believed to be at the lowest flight risk. However, these individuals are still convicts and sometimes do still escape.

Escaping from a facility at section 22 will leave that person or persons easy access to two major roads (I-90 and Heartland Express), Ultramax Ammunition and pharmaceuticals at Green Meadows Veterinary. All of these, as well as the Black Hills Visitor Center are well within a mile of this proposed location.

While it is unlikely that a drug – crazed escapee uses munitions to hold out-of-state visitors hostage before blowing up the center, it isn't impossible, is it? After all, the tragedy of Columbine High was the result of two young minds with deviant intent and opportunity.

Furthermore, as landowners and family people, my neighbors and I are concerned about the effect that the proximity of “A Prison” (never mind maximum or minimum security – the stigma will be the same) will have on future land values and the type of further development the area will attract.


We who were fortunate to see the doors close on “Loveys” wonder if we haven't gone from bad to worse. We ask that you consider those of us, who have homes, families, and a vested interest in this neighborhood when deciding the zoning for Section 22, and please keep us informed of permits and applications.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

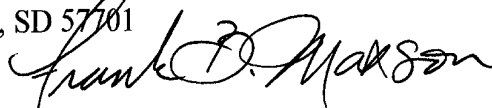


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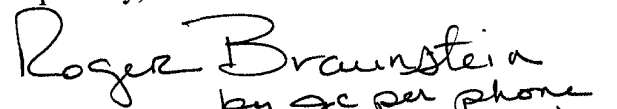
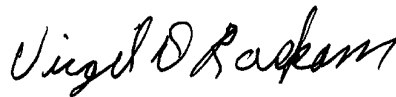


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