

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**BETWEEN**

**THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA,
MEADE COUNTY, PENNINGTON COUNTY,
CITY OF BOX ELDER, RAPID CITY,
AND
BLACK HILLS VISION**

**FOR THE FORMATION OF AN
MOVING FORWARD WITH ELLSWORTH STEERING COMMITTEE**

WHEREAS Ellsworth Air Force Base represents South Dakota's second largest employer and the corresponding major impact on the Rapid City MSA and Black Hills Economy.

WHEREAS the State of South Dakota, Meade County, Pennington County, City of Box Elder, City of Rapid City, and Black Hills Vision are concerned with the local, regional and state economies dependence on Ellsworth AFB and Department of Defense future decisions regarding Ellsworth AFB and its impact on their economy.

WHEREAS the State of South Dakota, Meade County, Pennington County, City of Box Elder, Rapid City, and Black Hills Vision all believe it is critical the above mentioned entities work cooperatively to address the need for a more diversified local, regional and state economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, the State of South Dakota, Meade County, Pennington County, City of Box Elder, Rapid City, and Black Hills Vision agree to form a Moving Forward with Ellsworth Steering Committee (herein referred to as the Steering Committee) with the following goals and stipulations.

STIPULATIONS

1. The Steering Committee shall be made of nine members.
2. Five members will represent the State of South Dakota, Meade County, Pennington County, City of Box Elder, and Rapid City [the five governmental entities that have taxation, public health, safety, and land use jurisdictional authority and responsibility for the area directly affected by Ellsworth AFB].
 - a. The five governmental entities will appoint in accordance with the applicable state law that governs each entity one primary representative to the Steering Committee and also identify an alternate representative for each primary representative.
 - b. Each governmental entity will have one vote on the Steering Committee.

2. The Steering Committee membership will include four private sector members.
 - a. The four private sector members shall be non voting members to the Steering Committee.
 - b. The four private sector members shall be nominated by the Black Hills Vision Board of Directors and approved by the five governmental Steering Committee members.
3. Representatives of the United States Congressional Delegation shall participate with the Steering Committee, as advisory non voting members.
4. Where voting is required regarding matters before the Steering Committee, voting shall be vested in the five voting governmental Steering Committee members.
 - a. A simple majority (three votes) is required to pass any resolution or item regarding matters before the Steering Committee.
5. Black Hills Vision shall serve as the administrative organization to the Steering Committee and the State of South Dakota Governor's Office regarding the activities of the Steering Committee and serve as the lead representative regarding interaction with the Secretary of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) and other local, state and federal agencies and contacts of the Steering Committee.
6. The Steering Committee's goals and responsibilities shall be:
 - a) To determine and analyze the impact and dependence that the Department of Defense and Ellsworth AFB has on the local, regional and state economy and to characterize the challenges the State, the local jurisdictions, and the citizenry must address to make its economy less dependent on a potential closure of Ellsworth AFB or other decisions made by the Department of Defense that may impact the local and regional economy.
 - b) To engage the Office of Economic Adjustment, EDA and other federal and state programs to help the above mentioned parties to remove barriers to diversifying the local and regional economy as well as develop new initiatives to further diversify the economy.

TERM. This Memorandum of Agreement is intended to be an enduring agreement between the parties to work cooperatively in moving forward as a local, regional and state economy that has a major dependence on the present and future status of Ellsworth AFB and the decisions made by the Department of Defense that effect the local, regional and state economy.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the respective duly authorized representatives of the parties hereto have executed this Memorandum of Understanding on the date set associated with their respective signatures.

State of South Dakota: _____

By Its: _____

Dated: _____

Meade County Commissioners: _____

By Its: _____

Dated: _____

Pennington County Commissioners: _____

By Its: _____

Dated: _____

City of Box Elder: _____

By Its: _____

Dated: _____

City of Rapid City: _____

By Its: _____

Dated: _____

Black Hills Vision: _____

By Its: _____

Dated: _____