



August 17, 2007

Rapid City Council
City of Rapid City
300 Sixth Street
Rapid City, SD 57701

Dear Members of the Rapid City Council:

RE: No. 07CA008 Amendment to the Adopted Comprehensive Plan to Change the Land Use Designation from General Agriculture to General Commercial

Merillat LP is a large industrial facility located directly north of Elk Vale Road, east of DM&F Railroad, and west of Creek Drive. The facility, built in 1983, manufactures particleboard components for kitchen and bath cabinets and employs approximately 240 employees at its twenty-four hour a day operation.

Merillat LP opposes the request by Dream Design International, Inc. to change the land use designation of Lot 1 of Marlin Industrial Park to General Commercial.

While Merillat LP complies with all government regulations, there are elements of the facility's operations that may be undesirable to adjacent land occupants other than those of the heavy industrial type:

- The facility uses wood chips, sawdust, and shavings to manufacture particleboard. At times, the handling of these raw materials causes a dusty environment.
- Equipment from the twenty-four operation produces sounds some may find undesirable
- The operation of the facility is supported by round-the-clock semi-truck traffic and rail service
- During wintertime months, the particleboard manufacturing process can produce columns of steam that can be carried by the northwesterly winds typical to this area. Lot 1 of Marlin Industrial Park is in the path that the steam columns typically drift.

Merillat LP takes pride in being a good corporate citizen and neighbor; however, the nature of the facility and its operations may pose future points of conflict if the request by Dream Design International, Inc. were to be granted. An industrial neighbor would be a better fit for the proposed land use.

Merillat LP supports the Future Land Use Committee's recommendation to deny the Amendment to the Adopted Comprehensive Plan to change the land use designation of Lot 1 of Marlin Industrial Park.

Please contact me if you have any questions or if I can provide further information.

Sincerely,

Wayne Bunge
Plant Manager