



March 17, 2014

Mayor Kooiker
300 Sixth St.
Rapid City, SD 57701

Mayor Kooiker:

The concept of the President's Plaza downtown development has captivated many of us over the last several years. Since 2006, conversations around what this project will do for our downtown have kept our interest in seeing it through to completion. We have been told there are many reasons that this project has been delayed. On behalf of the Rapid City Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, our 1200 members and their 33,000 employees, we write to you today to ask that you act to end the delays, and engage in the actions needed to bring President's Plaza to fruition.

The mission of the Rapid City Chamber is to promote a strong business climate in the Black Hills. We seek to work with businesses and government bodies to grow our local economy. We strongly believe that the President's Plaza development supports the mission, vision and goals of the Chamber and our members.

We have all seen the positive impact our vibrant downtown has on the economic vitality of our city. One cannot deny that the successful revitalization efforts downtown directly result in an increased quality of life for our citizens. The completion of the President's Plaza project will magnify those efforts, and will continue the positive progress of our downtown core.

The Rapid City Area Chamber of Commerce believes that President's Plaza is a solid economic investment in our community. This project addresses needs critical to the continued vitality of the downtown area; including increased job opportunities, residential living, parking, and expanded commercial and business development space.

In closing, we encourage our Mayor and Council to proceed with the President's Plaza project in the true spirit of partnership, for the benefit of our entire community. This has been delayed long enough; it is time to get this project underway.

Thank you.

Linda Rabe, IOM, CCE
President & CEO
Rapid City Area Chamber of Commerce