

Rapid Valley Fire Department

3760 Reservoir Road

Rapid City, SD 57703

605-393-0848

January 20, 2015

Mayor Sam Kooiker
Rapid City Council members
300 6th Street
Rapid City, SD 57703

Dear Mayor & Council

I am writing this letter in support of keeping the Firefighters stationed at the Rapid City Regional Airport a part of the Rapid City Fire Department. I served 33 years, with the last 9 as the Assistant Chief, Operations, as a member of the RCFD. I can tell you that the partnerships the RCFD has formed with the surrounding emergency response agencies are invaluable, not only to the airport but to the areas surrounding the airport. These partnerships are with the RCFD not Regional Airport. I believe that with the proposed major changes to the current ARFF services at the airport, these partnerships will be affected to the point where both the airport and surrounding areas will be vulnerable to a major disaster.

The Rapid Valley Fire District completely surrounds the airport. Current mutual aid agreements allow each agency to respond and help each other during emergencies. Currently our fire departments freely share equipment, training, personnel, and information. Privatization of ARFF services will discontinue some of these types of sharing due to rules and regulations not allowing government agencies to assist or allowing assistance from private companies.

I would urge your careful consideration not to change the ARFF provider at the airport. By doing so, I believe there will be a reduction in service provided not only to the citizens of Rapid City, but also to the traveling public and the citizens living near the airport.

Sincerely,



Tim Kobes,

Assistant Fire Chief, (retired) Rapid City Fire Department
Fire Chief, Rapid Valley Fire Department