



September 16, 2015

Mayor Steve Allender
City of Rapid City
300 Sixth Street
Rapid City, SD 57701

Dear Mayor Allender:

The Rapid City Area Chamber of Commerce has been a long-time advocate for the lengthening of terms for Mayor and Council members. Since 2009 the Chamber has worked with the business community and the City Council to identify and communicate the benefits of lengthened municipal terms. We wish to convey the support of the Chamber of Commerce in re-engaging the conversation and hopefully implementing this important change in the near future.

There are many compelling reasons to increase the length of terms for our municipal elected offices. Lengthened terms will afford our elected officials the opportunity to better strategically plan and implement long term vision for our community without the challenges of campaigning every two years.

As we advocated in 2011, we have long believed that lengthened terms of office should occur via the passage of a City ordinance. Enacting term length changes through ordinance does not circumvent community participation. The process by which city ordinances are vetted allows many opportunities for citizens to offer input on the issue. Three years ago the Chamber hosted multiple public forums, a survey to our membership and many articles in Chamber publications regarding increasing term lengths. The response then was overwhelmingly in support of the change.

The Rapid City Area Chamber of Commerce is a membership organization, separate from the City, which advocates for a thriving economic environment on behalf of our members. As our City has grown and the complexities of governing have become ever more challenging, we believe that lengthening the terms of office will provide our City's elected officials with a better foundation on which to govern.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Rabe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

cc: City Council Members