



July 22, 2015

City of Rapid City Council
Attn: Pauline Sumption, Finance Officer
300 6th Street
Rapid City, SD 57702

Dear Council Members,

As you are planning for your 2016 budget cycle, we are requesting the City of Rapid City Council approve a \$100,000 investment in Black Hills Vision in 2016. The City has invested \$100,000 in recent years to support projects which significantly impact its current revenue streams including the \$340 million generated by Ellsworth Air Force Base, Air Service Partnership, and Marketing visibility with site selectors through Rushmore Region activities.

Black Hills Vision is supporting projects and initiatives related to economic development throughout the Black Hills. Recently, we held a community update and annual meeting which highlighted projects that are currently funded by Black Hills Vision. Projects presented included:

- Belle Fourche Development Corporation
- Ports-to-Plains
- Rushmore Region Alliance Marketing
- Center for Theoretical Underground Physics - CETUP
- Air Service Taskforce
- Ellsworth Development Authority
- International Computer Programming Competition – SDSM&T

With approximately 37 community leaders, businesses, city, and county representatives at the meetings, Black Hills Vision shared how our partnerships have impacted the region though a consolidated effort by cities, counties, and private businesses.

Black Hills Vision has granted awards totaling \$507,000 in 2014 and has made 2015 grant commitments totaling over \$600,000. Requests are presented to BHV by the requesting organization and carefully screened by the Board of Directors to ensure the award will be administered by recognized organizations and their activities will benefit the entire region.

We expect 2016 grant requests will be similar in amounts and purpose to our 2015 year. Your financial support is critical for the region's ability to fund worthy projects in the future.

We are providing information for your Council budget book and look forward to answering any questions that may arise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce Rampelberg".

Bruce Rampelberg
Development Director