

January 27, 2020

Mr. Jerry Cope
Chairman
5208 Ridgeview Rd
Rapid City, SD 57701

Dear Mr. Cope:

I'm writing to express my interest and point of view on the potential trail system on the old rail corridor between Rapid City and Kadoka. I'm an avid cyclist in the Black Hills and very familiar with the Mickelson Trail. I've spent numerous hours riding/hiking/running on the trail system and feel it's an amazing attribute to the Black Hills. It draws a lot of tourist attraction and is host to two major half marathon/full marathon every year. Both of which have thousands of participants coming from all over the world. I see the proposed trail from Rapid City to Kadoka as an extension to the Mickelson trail and will add another source of tourist revenue to our area. I believe the opponents to the new trail do not make any valid points and are behind the times as far as growth for our area. Their concerns are individualistic and false. The trash concerns is so far from reality. If you believe this is a major concern I ask that you and your constituent's walk/bike/hike the entire Mickelson trail to see if this is in fact a potential problem. I'm confident you will find that this is a non-issue. Trespassing is another concern brought up in the Rapid City Journal article earlier this month. Again, I don't see the desire for a user of the trail to get off the trail and trespass on private land. There would be no reason to do so. Cities all over the United States are making improvements to their town to increase recreational activity. The addition of Hanson Larson Memorial Park and the Skyline trails have been a huge success for Rapid City. I believe the new proposed trail would dwarf the success of these two trail systems.

I hope you can look past the few land owners that are opposing this trail and listen to the thousands of people who view the potential trail as another great asset of Rapid City and western South Dakota.

Thank you for your time.

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