



Prospective Investor,

Thank you for your interest in supporting the Rapid City Economic Development Partnership. We continue to make progress in raising more investment dollars from the private sector, which we have used to grow, support and improve our valuable programs and services. With the public and private sectors working together and supporting our efforts, we are accomplishing some great things to bolster Rapid City's economy for the long-term.

Our organization's mission is to improve the quality of life, strengthen the local economy, and increase personal income levels in the greater Rapid City area by fostering a vital business climate which provides quality new jobs, helps existing businesses, attracts new business, and promotes entrepreneurship.

Over the past couple of years, our regional economy continued to expand and many new projects were announced, broke ground and opened here in Rapid City, including Dakota Panel, Amcon Distributing, Strider Sports, Premier Home Mortgage, Wausau Supply, Coke Bottling, Adams ISC, Black Hills Harley Davidson, Quality Services Inc., GCC Dacotah and HFW. These projects alone represent over \$37M in annual payroll, over 875 year-round jobs, and capital investment of over \$50M.

Our efforts to promote entrepreneurship continue with our success running the Black Hills Business Development Center, which currently has over 22 tenant companies, employing over 70 full time professionals and over 50 interns from SDSMT and BHSU.

In fact our efforts to develop stronger relationships within the Rushmore Region economic development community have resulted in three exciting new initiatives:

Black Hills Regional Angel Fund, LLC – In 2014 we launched this nearly \$3.0M fund, along with nearly 30 local angel investors, to encourage entrepreneurs and start-up companies in our region with high-growth potential to sprout and grow right here in Rapid City and the Rushmore Region by gaining access to equity capital investment.

Rushmore Regional Rail Authority – the cooperation shown between Pennington County, Rapid City, Box Elder and Wall in forming this authority, will allow rail-oriented industrial and agricultural development projects access to State Rail Trust Funds at low interest rates. Access to these loans will provide a valuable tool for companies seeking to build-out local rail infrastructure, grow their operations and expand their markets. A portion of the annual funding increase will be used for the administration of the authority. We will also be requesting a modest amount from the other member entities of the authority.

Rushmore Region Marketing and Branding Initiative – with a Second Quarter 2014 launch, this initiative is designed to increase consideration of and interest in our region for new economic development projects. In time, this will increase the number of year-round, high-paying jobs in our targeted industries.

Rapid City is uniquely positioned to capture the growing demand from companies looking to escape the crime, congestion, pollution and burdensome regulatory environments existent in other states by moving to and enjoying life within the Rushmore Region. We are also committed to serving the needs of our existing business base by 'growing our own industries' as well.

Your commitment to the **future of Rapid City** is important. We can be grateful that we live and work in this part of the country and world. The climate (both natural and business) is attractive, our unemployment rate is still way below the national average, our economy, while not invincible, is still strong and stable, and we have many regional assets that will help to position us favorably well into the future.

Further, I know you share our economic philosophy that a strong Rapid City will result in a strong Rushmore Region and visa-versa. We look forward to exploring new and better ways to work together to make the Black Hills year-round economy shine!

Sincerely,

Benjamin L. Snow
President

Shawn Gab
Chairman