Butler Machinery Company

3401 33rd Street S
Fargo, ND 58104
701.232.0033 tel
701.298.1717 fax

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MINERALS & MINING PROGRAM

November 3, 2011

South Dakota Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources
Attn: Mike Cepak - Minerals and Mining Program
523 E. Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Mr. Cepak:

Butler Machinery Company has been a supplier/partner in Wharf's mining activities since the day we acquired Kearns Machinery in 1988. Over those years they have consistently been one of our top volume customers in our Rapid City facility.

I personally worked in Rapid City for a period of time. During my 8 years as a South Dakota resident, there were 6 operating gold mines in the Black Hills. Presently there is the one remaining operation, Wharf Resources. I know the impact losing the other mining operations had on our Rapid City store. We have also seen the lack of growth in the northern hills in more recent years with the demise of mining opportunities and the loss of high paying jobs associated with it.

Today we have a large number of associates whose job is directly or indirectly tied to Wharf's day-to-day operations as we rent them a majority of their mining fleet of haul trucks, loading tools, etc. Wharf Resources is our largest customer in the Rapid City facility. The approval of Wharf's expansion project would allow us to continue this relationship and the subsequent employment of individuals at our Rapid City facility.

I urge you to approve Wharf's expansion project as a past citizen of South Dakota and as the owner of a business with 5 locations within South Dakota including one in Rapid City. This is good for the local community and is good for the state.

Sincerely,

Butler Machinery Company

Dan Butler
President

DB/clh

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NORTH CENTRAL
RENTAL & LEASING LLC
A Subsidiary of Butler Machinery Co.

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October 31, 2011

South Dakota Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources
Attn: Mike Cepak - Minerals and Mining Program
523 E. Capitol
Pierre SD 57501

RE: Wharf Expansion Project

Dear Mr. Cepak,

I am writing to support the application of Wharf Resources to expand their mining operations at the Wharf Mine in Lawrence County.

Wharf is a conscientious operator and an excellent steward of the land. Mining at the Wharf Mine provides 150 high quality jobs for the area. Approval of Wharf's Expansion Project will allow these jobs to continue for an additional seven to eight years. In addition, Wharf will continue to spend millions of dollars each year, the majority of this in Lawrence County and South Dakota, to purchase supplies and services for the Mine.

Wharf and its employees are also valuable community members and good neighbors. They support our schools, youth groups, law enforcement and numerous community organizations and activities.

I urge you to approve Wharf's Expansion Project.

Sincerely,

North Central Rental & Leasing LLC
a subsidiary of Butler Machinery Company

Joel Nikle
Rental Fleet Manager