



STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA SENATOR TOM NELSON

DISTRICT 31 – LAWRENCE COUNTY

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NOV 10 2011

MINERALS & MINING PROGRAM

November 7, 2011

Mr. Mike Cepak, Minerals and Mining Program
South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources
523 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Re: Wharf Expansion Project

Dear Mr. Cepak:

I wish to go on record as in complete support of the application for Wharf Resources to expand their mining operations at the current site near Lead.

In my capacity as Mayor of the City of Lead I have experiences many times that Wharf and their parent company, Goldcorp, are both excellent corporate citizens. In addition, the employees of the Wharf Mine are valuable community members and contribute greatly to the overall enhancement of our schools, youth groups, law enforcement and many, many community organizations.

Wharf is always providing me with information and visits concerning their property. And I can tell you that, from my vantage point, they are conscientious in their operations and an excellent steward of the land.

The mine provides 150 high quality jobs for the area and the approval of the expansion will allow these jobs to continue for an additional seven to eight years.

Wharf's operation budget, much of which is spent locally, regionally or within the state, will continue to add millions of dollars to our economy each year as their expansion continues.

I wholeheartedly support the Wharf Expansion Project and urge the state to approve its request.

Sincerely,

Tom Nelson

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616 SUNNYHILL ROAD
LEAD, SD 57754
PHONE: 605-584-2600
CELL: 605-641-0122
EMAIL: FOGGYNOTE@RUSHMORE.COM

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Sincerely,

Tom Nelson
Mayor

CITY OF LEAD

The City with the ♥ of Gold

801 W. Main Street, Lead, SD 57754-1538 • Phone (605) 584-1401 • Fax (605) 584-1407