



**FALL RIVER COUNTY
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COURTHOUSE
906 NORTH RIVER ST
HOT SPRINGS, SOUTH DAKOTA 57747
PHONE: (605) 745-5130 FAX: (605) 745-6835**

April 26, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

The Fall River County Commissioners are pleased to support the United Ranchers Co-op that is developing in our county. With years of hard work, the project's groundbreaking is set for May 25th, 2022, with construction to be completed by October 1, 2022.

The Commission supported this project by Resolution #2020 – 16 on July 7th, 2020, and continues to support Co-op's goal of processing, packaging and shipping local grown beef, under the label of Dakota Territory Beef. This will be a benefit to the area's local economic development with the potential of up to eight employees.

The United Ranchers Co-op will benefit local producers by retaining a fair price for the cattle they raise and allow residents and possibly schools to benefit from purchasing locally grown beef.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe Falkenburg". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Joe Falkenburg, Chair
Fall River County Commissioners



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April 26, 2022

Randy Deibert
Lawrence County Commissioner
90 Sherman St.
Deadwood, SD 57732

Dear Randy,

I think we need to concentrate on how we can be better informed and make better decisions as Commissioners for our constituents in our respective Counties. Since knowledge is power, the more information we have available through the Forest Service, the better our decisions can be.

At this time, I don't believe we have received all of the available information that would allow us to make an informed decision. In Fall River County, we have 44,772.44 acres of National Forest land, including grazing and timber. This is a huge amount of our total land area. Numerous ranchers are dependent upon their Forest Service grazing permits for the sustainability of their livelihood.

If we, as elected officials do not adequately represent these clients and other users of the Forest Service lands, hunters, rockhounds, hikers, campers, we are not fulfilling our obligations as elected officials. It is our responsibility to utilize the information given to us to keep our constituents informed.

To the best of my knowledge, we were not adequately asked for input in the decision-making process by the Forest Service. I think a meeting of area Commissioners from affected Counties would be advantageous for strategizing our ongoing efforts with our Forest Service programs.

Please feel free to contact our Auditor for additional correspondence.

Sincerely,

Joe Falkenburg, Chair
Fall River County Commission

CC: Jeff Tomac
USDA Forest Service
Black Hills National Forest
1019 N 5th St.
Custer, SD 57730