



## *2019 Legislative Report*

The Rapid City Chamber is a proud advocate for our local businesses and community. Our legislative platform reflects the focus on business friendly legislation that promotes and enhances the ability for businesses to be successful and grow in our region. We believe the key to a vibrant Rapid City is an engaged, innovative, and growing business community. We are committed to advocating for policies that promote that mission.

The 94<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session marked a year of change for South Dakota. On January 5, Kristi Noem was inaugurated as our 33<sup>rd</sup> Governor. The Governor gave her State of the State address three days later at the start of the session. Typically, legislators and advocates have somewhat of an idea of the tone and direction the administration will go as Session begins. With a new Governor and staff, legislators and lobbyists could only assume what the priorities would be for the year. During Governor Noem's State of the State address, she outlined priorities for 2019 that center around fiscal discipline and a focus on the next generation.

Governor Noem's 2019 Priorities include:

- 1) Expanding Rural Broadband: Access to technology is a fundamental need for industry, workforce, and educational growth. Noem said, "I've heard it said that 65% of children in elementary school today will work in jobs that don't exist yet." She hopes to expand broadband across South Dakota through public/private partnerships.
- 2) Extending Pheasant Habitat: Governor Noem celebrated the rural nature and heritage of South Dakota and identified Pheasant hunting as a key economic impact, promising to create programs, partnerships, and funding to grow pheasant habitat in the State.
- 3) The Next Big Thing: Governor Noem committed to a pro-business approach to cultivate and attract the "Next Big Thing" in economic development for South Dakota.
- 4) Improving Education and Workforce: "Creating new jobs, new industries and new economic horizons for our state will be worthless if we don't have the next generation of South Dakotan's educated, trained and ready to take on these new opportunities and challenges." Noem recognized the opportunity to reduce barriers to employment, find solutions to workforce housing, and identify partnerships with education and business to address the skills needed for the workforce of today and the future. She also championed the need to increase civic education in high school.
- 5) Battling Meth: Meth addiction is an epidemic throughout South Dakota. The devastating effects of meth can be seen in families, hospitals, missions, recovery centers, and jails. There is not a sector



of our society that isn't impacted by the growing meth problem. Governor Noem will focus on education, enforcement, and treatment programs to battle the meth epidemic.

- 6) Foster Care: Governor Noem committed to using her influence as Governor to bring awareness to the need for foster families. "Every child deserves a home."
- 7) Growing Agriculture: Governor Noem will put emphasis on economic development within Ag by transferring the Ag Development Representatives from the Department of Ag to the Office of Economic Development. She will also start to transition the state vehicle fleet to E30 to maximize the use of homegrown fuels.
- 8) Transparency: Lastly, Governor Noem has deemed government transparency as the cornerstone of her administration.

### *2019 Chamber Legislative Priorities*

The Chamber's legislative review process places intentional focus on member input, thoughtful deliberation, impact and relevancy. Each issue and platform statement is reviewed by our Public Policy Committee and submitted to the Board of Directors for consideration and adoption. The process ensures the Chamber's advocacy and policy development efforts are in the best interest of our members and carried out in a transparent and accountable manner. Attached you will find the Chamber's 2019 State Legislative Agenda.

In addition to general business related topics, the Chamber advocates for issues specific to our community and region. Issue topics we highlighted at the state level primarily related to reducing barriers keeping people from participating in the workforce.

Infrastructure continues to be a focus of our advocacy efforts. Lynn Kendall was elected as President of the South Dakota Highway Users Conference this year. The Highway Users group meets periodically throughout the year to discuss infrastructure efforts with the Department of Transportation, Public Safety, and Motor Vehicles.

### *Bill Overview*

The 2019 Session considered an average amount of bills at 463, and 85 different House and Senate commemorations or resolutions. An interesting change this year was the increased occurrence of Hoghouse Vehicle Bills. Vehicle bills are generic bills introduced relating to a certain topic, but without specific legislative intent. Our 40-day session has a series of deadlines set to keep bills progressing through the process in a timely manner. The first deadline is when a bill can be introduced and happens at day 15 during the session. There can occasionally be ideas that are still being developed and not quite



ready for introduction by that early deadline. Therefore, leadership will introduce a vehicle bill as a placeholder to be hoghouse amended at a later date, once the bill language is firmed.

Typically, in a session there will be only a handful of vehicle bills introduced, and usually only by House and Senate leadership. This year we saw 46 vehicle bills compared to 9 last year and 16 the year before. Legislators discussed the use of vehicle bills during a hearing on Legislative Procedures at the end of session. All agreed that the increase in vehicle bill introduction this year was not the indicator of a trend, but rather a series of extenuating circumstances.

### **Bill Statistics**

Introduced: 463

Withdrawn: 26

Passed by both chambers: 218

Veto: 4 (2 regular, 2 style/form)

The 2 regular vetoes were sustained and the 2 style and form changes were adopted.

Total passed: 216

Total passage rate: 49%

The average bill passage rate is 54%



## *Chamber Positions*

### House Bill 1034 - Chamber Supported

#### **An Act to revise certain provisions regarding unemployment insurance contribution rates**

During the 2017 session, the Legislature established a new rate table for the Unemployment Trust Fund that maintains an adequate balance to cover the expected need, but not accrue a large balance outside of predicted usage. The Legislature enacted statute that would trigger a tax reduction for employers once a healthy trust fund balance was reached and maintained.

This year, it was determined that a healthy level has been maintained and as a result, legislators brought forth HB 1097 to enact a .05% rate reduction equaling a \$2.5 million dollar tax cut to businesses across the state.

HB 1034 passed the House and the Senate with only one dissenting vote.

### House Bill 1040 – Chamber Supported

#### **An Act to establish certain provisions regarding the opportunity scholarship program**

The Opportunity Scholarship program was established in 2004 by the South Dakota Legislature and provides up to \$6,500 in financial aid to qualified high school graduates. Eligible students must have at least a 3.0 GPA in required classwork, score at least a 24 ACT score, and attend a university or technical school in South Dakota. Currently, students receiving home schooled education can qualify for the Opportunity Scholarship if they have an ACT score of 28.

HB 1034 establishes course and grade requirements for home school students, as well as lowers the ACT score requirement to 24, creating equal standards for public, private, and home school students.

This idea was passed last year, but then vetoed by Governor Dugaard. Governor Noem announced in her State of the State address that she would support such proposals offering home schools students the same scholarship opportunities as other students.

The Chamber supported HB 1040 recognizing the opportunity to retain young talent in our schools and eventually, our workforce.

HB 1040 was passed out of the House and Senate and signed into law by Governor Noem.



## HB 1111 – Chamber Supported

### **An Act to provide for the professional or occupational licensure for certain active duty military personnel and spouses.**

Military spouses make up a unique group of people in our community. They serve right along with their service member, relocating many times when called in the support of our country. They manage their home life, children, and careers so their service member can focus on serving our country.

The mobile nature of the military lifestyle creates very unique career challenges for military spouses. One of those challenges comes from state-by-state professional licensing requirements. Unfortunately, there is rarely consistency in requirements, standards, and processes for receiving a license from state to state. The inconsistency can force spouses to incur costs as they meet the requirements in each individual state. The unexpected costs incurred, and the amount of time spent meeting changing requirements can significantly delay their participation in the workforce.

In February of 2018, the Department of Defense Service Secretaries issued a memorandum that brought this important issue to light and encouraged states with military bases to find ways to reduce the barriers preventing military spouses from furthering their professional careers through inconsistent licensing practices. They raised the importance of the issue even further by indicating it could be a consideration for mission growth and basing decisions.

Working with the South Dakota Ellsworth Development Authority, Ellsworth Air Force Base, Senators Alan Solano and Jeff Partridge, and Representative Mike Diedrich, the Chamber led conversations with the base, military spouses, local legislators, and licensing boards to discuss ways to streamline licensing processes for military spouses while at the same time maintaining oversight by the licensing boards. HB 1111 was drafted to allow licensing boards to recognize the licenses military spouses hold from other states, issue them a South Dakota license, waive the fees associated with applications and renewals, and allow them to work under that license while they are stationed in South Dakota.

In researching this issue, we had many conversations with various licensing boards and associations. Each one goes above and beyond in helping military spouses get licensed in South Dakota. For many, the process is efficient and timely. HB 1111 wasn't a critique of the licensing boards but rather a way to recognize the sacrifice military spouses give in their careers and, as a state, help them work in their profession while in South Dakota.

HB 1111 was supported by many local industry and business associations:



- Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce
- American Institute of Architects of South Dakota
- South Dakota Design Professionals Coalition
- South Dakota Chiropractors
- Association of General Contractors
- South Dakota Dental Association

HB 1111 passed both the House and the Senate unanimously.

#### HB 1120 – Chamber Supported

#### **An Act to appropriate funds for forest health and resilience.**

During the height of the Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) epidemic the State created the Mountain Pine Beetle Mitigation Fund to support MPB prevention activities and wildfire suppression. Throughout the epidemic the Federal Government contributed approximately \$75 million, the State \$14 million, Lawrence County almost \$3.25 million, and Pennington County \$1.8 million to the fund in support of mitigation efforts.

While battling the epidemic one valuable lesson learned was the impact proactive forest management has on the reducing the impact of bugs and disease to the Black Hills National Forest. However, seeing the lessened need for state funding in MPB efforts, Governor Dugaard and Governor Noem recommended transferring the remaining \$705,101 from the MPB Mitigation Fund to the general fund for use in other areas.

HB 1120 would have created the Forest Health and Resilience Fund and transferred the remaining \$705,101 to this fund for use in matching grants for forest management projects in the Black Hills.

The Chamber has been a longtime advocate for healthy management of the Black Hills National Forest. As a key employer and large industry in our area, as well as a key component of our tourism strategy, the Black Hills National Forest is a valuable resource that we must continue to preserve and manage effectively.

HB 1120 was defeated in Joint Appropriations on a motion to Table.



HB 1120 vote record:

Bartels	Yea	Cronin	Yea	Greenfield (Brock)	Excused
Gross	Yea	Howard	Nay	Hunhoff	Excused
Karr	Yea	Kolbeck	Yea	Koth	Yea
Maher	Nay	Nesiba	Yea	Partridge	Yea
Peterson (Sue)	Excused	Post	Yea	Saba	Yea
Sutton	Yea	White	Yea	Wiik	Yea

HB 1173 – Chamber Opposed

**An Act to permit the possession of firearms by certain employees**

HB 1173 would have prohibited private property owners from creating policy to prevent employees from bringing firearms in the parking lot. HB 1173, as introduced, would have applied to churches, parochial schools, hospitals, nursing homes, drug and alcohol treatment centers, and most private businesses. In its original form, the bill prohibited employers from taking any action against employees bringing guns on the property of the business. HB 1173 crossed the line from property rights into employment law.

The bill acknowledged that there are places where guns are not appropriate by exempting public schools, federal property, domestic violence shelters, correctional facilities, and the South Dakota Human Service Center and Development Centers. Based on that premise then, what this bill implied was that only the State can determine where guns are appropriate and where they are not – not the private property owner.



The bill sponsor, Representative Kevin Jensen, was open to concerns from businesses and tried to amend the bill to reach a compromise. The bill was amended to require firearms be concealed in a locked vehicle and exempted the following locations from the prohibition: federal jurisdiction, schools, correctional facilities, domestic violence shelters or programs, South Dakota Human Services Center, South Dakota Developmental Center, and any employer that is required to restrict firearms in accordance with federal contract.

Although the amendments addressed our concerns, the Chamber remained in opposition because of the basic limitation on a property owner’s right to create policy that they deem appropriate for the safety and well-being of their employees and customers. We partnered with numerous business organizations and industry associations across the State to opposed HB 1173.

HB 1173 passed out of House State Affairs Committee 7-4. We were fortunately able to kill the bill on the House floor. However, the vote was close. We recognize the difficulty of this issue for our local legislators. No one wants to be perceived as limiting 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Rights. For us, however, this is a property rights issue. Please note the local legislators who helped us defeat this bill and thank them for their support of sound business policy.

Do Pass Motion: Yeas 32 Nays 36

*Supported the Chamber Position:*

District 30	
Rep. Goodwin	YES
Rep. Frye-Mueller	NO

District 34	
Rep. Diedrich	YES
Rep. Olson	YES

District 32	
Rep. Borglum	YES
Rep. Johnson (Chris)	NO

District 35	
Rep. Mulally	NO
Rep. Randolph	Excused

District 33	
Rep. Johnson (Dave)	YES
Rep. Howard	NO

Every year we see some form of legislation attempting to overrule private property rights in favor of 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment rights. Our hope is to work with Chamber members and local legislators to format a more proactive approach to this issue in preparation for next session.



#### HB 1241 – Chamber Opposed

##### **An Act to establish provisions regarding training for human trafficking prevention.**

HB 1241, as introduced, would have required all hospitality businesses in the state to annually train all employees on the signs and prevention of human trafficking. The bill required the training to be an official course offered through the Attorney General and a record of the training kept in each employee file. The bill did not distinguish between full-time, part-time, temporary, or seasonal employees. Failure to train employees would have resulted in a Class 2 misdemeanor.

Rep. Pourier, District 27, brought the bill forward in an attempt to engage the hospitality industry in the fight against human trafficking. Rep. Pourier met with the Chamber and Visit Rapid City to hear our concerns on the structure of the bill. While we supported the intent, the punitive manner was over-reaching. Having to train every single employee regardless of status would have put unreasonable burden on the industry. Furthermore, the only known training provided by the Attorney General at the time was a multiple day course to be taken in Pierre.

Rep. Pourier worked with us to amend the bill, making it more of a partnership between the state and the hospitality industry rather than required training. The bill was defeated in committee. Visit Rapid City has agreed to work with Rep. Pourier to bring more awareness to the devastating reality of human trafficking.

#### SB 117 – Chamber Supported

##### **An Act to authorize Spanish to be used in the process of issuing certain drivers licenses and permits.**

SB 117 would allow the personal driver's license manual, application, and test to be translated and made available in Spanish. The lack of an available workforce is cited as one of the largest barriers to business growth. We believe that by identifying pockets of population who struggle with barriers to employment, researching, and then reducing those barriers, we can make a positive impact on the workforce shortage.

South Dakota is one of six states that does not offer driver's license exams in any language but English. Entering the workforce as an immigrant to America helps people learn English and settle into the community faster. People have to get themselves to work and they need a driver's license to do it. By offering the driver's license study material and test in English only, it significantly delays the ability of Spanish-speaking citizens ability to pass the test because the level of English proficiency needed to read



and understand the driver's manual can take years to gain. Furthermore, states all over the country have proven that people who take the driver's license exam in a language other than English are no more unsafe on the road than English speaking drivers.

The population of South Dakota is becoming more diverse. The Rapid City Chamber recognizes the important economic impact our immigrant population has on South Dakota's workforce. Roughly 4% of South Dakota residents live in homes that speak Spanish as a primary language – that's approximately 35,000 people. At least half of those are of working age and either part of the workforce or could be added to the workforce.

In response to their business community, the Sioux Falls Chamber led the advocacy effort on this issue.

SB 117 passed out of the Senate, but failed in House State Affairs. We expect to continue the discussion next session.

### *Topics of Interest*

#### HB 1084

#### **An Act to provide for specific classification of affordable housing structures for the purposes of taxation.**

HB 1084 started as a vehicle bill that was hoghoused in House State Affairs Committee. The amended language allows County Commissions to use a discretionary formula for property tax valuation for new, affordable house structures for up to five years. These buildings must be new construction, contain at least four units, and have a monthly rental rate at or below the annually calculated rent for the state's 60% area median income as determined by the South Dakota Housing Development Authority for at least 10 years after the first occupant.

The purpose of this change is to give counties the opportunity to offer a temporary tax reduction as incentive to build workforce housing. We support the intent to spur workforce housing development, however, this discretionary incentive alone probably won't entice construction. Builders would have to commit to a reduced rent for 10 years in exchange for a tax reduction for 5 years.

HB 1084 adds another tool for counties to use to encourage housing development, but more than likely will have limited impact to the workforce housing shortage. HB 1084 was passed by both chambers and signed by the Governor.



## **Sales Tax Reduction**

In 2016, when the tax increase for teacher pay was enacted, then Representative Partridge offered an amendment on the floor stating, should South Dakota be able to collect sales tax on remote sellers, the State would reduce the tax by .1% for every \$20 million in new revenue collected. Since then, South Dakota led the successful court case against Wayfair, which overturned previous precedent and allows states to collect sales tax on online/remote sales. Therefore, the 2019 legislature began the discussion on the best way to implement the “Partridge Amendment.”

Two competing ideas about how to enact the sales tax reduction were discussed during session through SB 86 and HB 1265. Caught in a political tug-of-war, both bills were amended heavily as they made their way through committees, each taking on the form of the other at one point in time.

### SB 86

Originally SB 86 required the Department of Revenue to present to the Joint Appropriations Committee, each year, the calculations of actual revenue generated throughout the previous year. If the revenue generated exceeds the previous year’s revenue by \$20 million, the legislature may introduce legislation to reduce the sales tax by .1%. The tax cannot be reduced below 4%.

Opponents to the bill were concerned that the use of ‘may introduce legislation’ made the tax reduction up to the discretion of the current legislature. Whereas, proponents argued that the Appropriations Committee and the legislature need to authority to evaluate how a tax reduction would impact the overall budget. More than 65% of the State’s budget is generated through sales tax. Changes to the tax structure can create barriers to the State’s ability to fulfill obligations, and must therefore be thoughtfully considered.

### HB 1265

HB 1265 attempted to make a tax reduction of .1% automatic once a revenue increase of \$20 million plus Consumer Price Index (CPI) was met compared to the previous year. As with SB 86, the tax rate would not be reduced below 4%. Proponents to this option see this as upholding a promise made to citizens to reduce the tax and not grow government.

The concern with an automatic tax reduction is the inability of the legislature to analyze the impact to the overall state budget for the current year, and would make any forecast and budgeting done before final revenue numbers are received very difficult. Currently, the Governor presents their budget address in December, well before the legislature is presented with final budget projections for the year.



Both bills were amended and debated extensively throughout session, but a consensus was never reached. Eventually, SB 86 was tabled and HB 1265 became the prime legislation. In the end, the House and Senate were unable to agree on a path forward and HB 1265 was killed for lack of concurrence. How to responsibly enact the tax reduction, or not enact the reduction, will be a topic for the legislature next year.

Americans for Prosperity are circulating petitions to have ask voters to reduce the sales tax by .5% over the next 5 years, starting in 2021. The initiated measure does not include a tie to revenue generate; it is just a straight tax cut.

The Chamber supports a thoughtful approach to sales tax reduction. Sales Tax comprises 65% of the revenue generate in our State. We need to fully understand the impact to services before implementing blanket tax cuts.

### **Guns**

HB 1054 – Currently, any firearms on ATV's and snowmobiles must be unloaded and cased. HB 1054 exempts ATV's with two wheels, seats and a steering wheel from this requirement. HB 1054 passed the House and Senate and was signed by the Governor.

HB 1056 prohibits counties, townships or municipalities from imposing any tax, licensure requirement, or license fee on the possession, storage, transportation, purchase, sale, transfer, ownership, manufacture, or repair of firearms, or ammunition, or their components. The bill requires the Attorney General to bring an action for injunctive relief against any county, township, or municipality that fails to abide by a cease and desist order, if caught violating this provision. HB 1056 passed the House and Senate and was signed by the Governor.

SB 47 repealed the requirement for a concealed carry permit. Current state law allows people to carry a firearm openly without a permit. The passage of SB 47 allows those citizens who can legally carry a firearm to do so concealed without a permit. This bill is identical to the bill brought in 2017 that was vetoed by Governor Dugaard. SB 47 passed the Senate and the House and was signed by the Governor.

SB 115 allows people with an enhanced use firearm permit to carry in the State Capitol if notification is given to the superintendent of the Division of Highway Patrol 24-hours prior to entering the Capitol with a concealed firearm. SB 115 passed the Senate and the House and was signed by the Governor.



## **Industrial Hemp**

One of the controversial topics this session was industrial hemp production. HB 1191 that would have legalized the growth and manufacturing of industrial hemp. Industrial hemp is being legalized by most mid-America states as a new commodity crop, hoping to spur innovation and increase revenue to farmers and the State. HB 1191 would require a license from the South Dakota Department of Agriculture to grow, produce, or process industrial hemp. HB 1191 was widely supported by the Ag community and the legislature.

Early in session, Governor Noem expressed her concerns about the legalization of industrial hemp, expressing the State wasn't ready for it. She highlighted the potential problems industrial hemp creates for law enforcement and the prosecution of drug offenders. The Noem Administration claims that the real reason proponents of the bill advocated for passage was the not about the help for farmers but for the commercial usage of CBD oil. CBD oil has not yet been approved by the FDA for therapeutic use or interstate commerce.

Despite the concerns outlined by Governor Noem, the legislature passed HB 1191 by a 65-2 vote in the House, and 21-14 in the Senate. Shortly after passage of the bill, the Governor issued a veto, which was overturned in the House but sustained in the Senate.

The growth, production, and processing of industrial hemp could open opportunity for our farmers to engage in another commodity crop, increasing revenue potential and diversifying exports. The support around HB 1191 shows that many in the state are willing to have the conversations needed to open the opportunity for industrial hemp production in South Dakota. The issue has been assigned as a summer study this year.

## **Pipeline Bills**

Towards the end of session, at the Governor's request, the Committee on Appropriations asked the legislature to suspend the rules and allow introduction of two bills to address potential rioting and protesting of the Keystone XL pipeline, like we saw in North Dakota.

SB 189 adds a civil penalty to the criminal penalty already in place for riots and soliciting riots. Enabling a civil penalty allows the State to seek remedy from those funding riot-boosting activities. Any funds received from litigation under this tort will be deposited into the Riot Boosting Recovery Fund to offset public safety costs incurred during riots.



SB 190 recognizes the burden pipeline protests could put on local governments and therefore, enacts the Pipeline Engagement Activity Coordination Expenses (PEACE) fund to receive contributions, special fees, and civil recoveries. Then those funds will be used to pay administration costs for running the fund and extraordinary expenses the state, county, or municipality may incur.

Both bills passed with an emergency clause and therefore immediately become law. However, the ACLU has filed a federal lawsuit challenging SB 189 as a violation of the First Amendment.

## **Budget**

Facing an incoming snowstorm, legislators worked around the clock on March 12 in order to leave town before the snow. At about 1:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 13 legislators passed a series of budget bills finalizing the FY19 budget and approving the FY20 budget.

*The following mid-year adjustments were made to the FY2019 Budget, SB180:*

- Reduction in the social services budget of \$19 million due to less Medicaid eligible
- Reduction in the Department of Education budget of \$6.9 million due to higher property taxes and less students
- The budget reductions allowed for the following 2019 increases
  - o 10% increase to nursing homes
  - o 6.5% to Community Support Providers
  - o \$5 million to Governor's Office of Economic Development for broadband
  - o \$3.3 million to the SDSU Animal Disease Research and Diagnostic Lab
  - o \$1.5 million for forest management in Custer State Park

*FY 2020 Approved Budget Highlights, SB 191*

- Continuation of the 10% increase for nursing homes = \$ 18.1 million
- Continuation of the 6.5% increase for community support providers = \$9 million
- 3-4% increase for community based providers
- 8% increase for residential psychiatric providers
- 2.5% increase to K-12 for teacher salaries – bringing the average teach pay to \$50,360
- 2.5% increase to technical institutes for teacher salaries
- 2.5% increase for state employees

The overall FY20 budget is \$4.9 billion and maintains a 10% reserve fund.



## *Thank You*

### *Legislators*

The Rapid City area is blessed to be represented by some strong, thoughtful, business-minded legislators who see the Chamber as a partner. We work with them year-round, having conversations about issues facing the community. These legislators are open and willing to listen to our suggestions and concerns. We may not always agree, but we can have informative conversations and they respect the position of the Chamber.

### *Business Champions*

The Chamber's advocacy work is supported by the below businesses. Thank you for helping us grow our influence and impact in the policy arena on behalf of our members and Rapid City!

Black Hills Corporation

Black Hills Harley-Davidson

Black Hills Surgical Hospital

BMS Financial Advisors, LLC

First Interstate Bank

Golden West Technologies

Great Western Bank

Gunderson, Palmer, Nelson & Ashmore, LLP

H.F. Webster Engineering Services

Tom Helland

Murphy's Pub & Grill

Northwest Pipe Fittings



Phase Technologies, LLC

Pioneer Bank & Trust

Rapid City Economic Development Partnership

Regional Health

Security First Bank

Sound Pro

State Farm Insurance - Andy Ainslie

Visit Rapid City

West Plains Engineering

West River Electric Association

### *Public Policy Committee*

The Chamber's Public Policy Committee works throughout the year developing the legislative platform and vetting issues in which the Chamber should engage on behalf of our members. The committee analyzes policy, interviews stakeholders, and recommends appropriate action to the Board of Directors. Thank you to the following committee members:

Randy Hamburg, Helen Usera, John Way, Ben Wudke, Rob Timm, Talbot Wieczorek, Scott Engmann, Haven Stuck, Dean Aaruand, Linda Rabe, Tim Doyle, Mike Diedrich, Kitty Kinsman, Robert Raker, Terri Haverly, Andy Bartling, Hugh Boyle.

### *Conclusion*

This session marked a shift for the Chamber as we took a proactive approach to policy by bringing proposed legislation to the session. We hope to continue our future focused approach to legislation and take more leadership roles in bill passage on behalf of our members.

As we continue to grow our advocacy efforts and influence there is an opportunity to increase our efforts in recruiting thoughtful business people to run for office. We have connections throughout the



community we can use to educate business leaders on the importance of encouraging their people to serve. As Rapid City continues to grow and attract people and businesses to the area, we will need representatives serving in office who share our vision for the future.

It is an honor to represent the Rapid City Chamber of Commerce!

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Kendall, IOM

Vice President/Lobbyist