

## ***Pennington County***

### ***Commissioners***

315 Saint Joseph Street

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April 21, 2009

The Honorable Stephanie Herseth Sandlin  
331 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: ROCHFORD ROAD (FAS 6164)

Dear Honorable Representative Herseth Sandlin:

The Pennington County Commissioners are seeking your consideration and support for Highway Priority Project Funds, to improve Rochford Road from State Highway 385 to Rochford, SD. Three and one-half (3.5) miles of this project is located in Lawrence County and 7.58 miles is located in Pennington County. Lawrence County and Pennington County, through the South Dakota Department of Transportation, is eligible under Title 23 (Highways) to receive funding for Rochford Road, which is FAS Route 6164 and Forest Highway #24. Because of the limited funding resources available to Lawrence County and Pennington County, we are unable to fund this project without federal assistance.

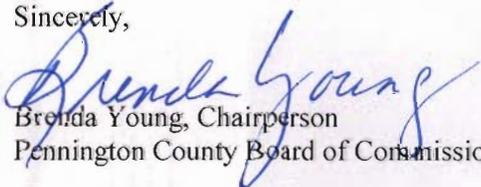
**THIS PROJECT WOULD PROVIDE IMPROVED ACCESS TO THE BLACK HILLS NATIONAL FOREST, EXPERIMENTAL FOREST, HISTORICAL TOWN OF ROCHFORD, GEORGE MICKELSON TRAIL, AND RAPID CREEK. IT WOULD ALSO PROVIDE IMPROVED ACCESS FOR MOTORCYCLES DURING THE STURGIS RALLY.**

**THE PROJECT WOULD OFFER AN IMPROVED AND MORE EFFICIENT ROUTE FOR THE BLACK HILLS NATIONAL FOREST FOR TIMBER REMOVAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES. A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN RECREATIONAL USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF PRIVATE LANDS WILL BE OFFERED, STIMULATING ECONOMIC VITALITY OF THE REGION.**

**WATER RESOURCES OF RAPID CREEK WILL BE BETTER PROTECTED AND ENHANCED WITH THE WORK. FUGITIVE DUST EMISSIONS WILL BE REDUCED BY 736 LBS PER DAY, 100 TON PER YEAR. PROTECTION AND MITIGATION OF CULTURAL AND BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES WILL BE ENSURED. LONG TERM DEMAND FOR AGGREGATE MATERIALS WILL BE REDUCED.**

If this project request is approved, Pennington County will conduct a series of public hearings to allow the public comment on the project and discuss the merits of the project. We will contact the U.S. Forest Service for input approval, comments, and support of the project.

Sincerely,

  
Brenda Young, Chairperson  
Pennington County Board of Commissioners