

LEAD-DEADWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT #40-1

Cohesive Community. Boundless Opportunity. Discover Your GOLD!

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November 1, 2024

Deadwood Planning and Zoning Commission,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Lead-Deadwood School District to represent the school's interest as a neighboring property owner to the property at 735 Main Street, Deadwood.

The school district's position on the requested zoning change for said property is that we oppose any additional properties adjacent to the Deadwood Elementary School being rezoned in any category that would allow for future gaming sites. To be clear, the district does not have a position on gaming as an industry or on that industry's prominence in Deadwood's economy or culture. By in large, the gaming establishments in Deadwood have been great community partners. Our issue is strictly with the proximity of any new establishments in the area of the elementary school, especially concentrated near the pickup and drop-off site for the school. An additional gaming establishment would essentially surround the elementary school with these businesses. Even if there are no immediate plans for this property to become a gaming establishment, a zoning change would allow that to happen in the future, so we are expressing our concern before the zoning change takes place.

Deadwood has enjoyed the benefits of the gaming industry in our community for decades, and the people of Deadwood have benefited from having a local elementary school in the current building for 100 years, and in the current location in a prior building since 1899. We feel it is important to preserve this small portion of our community, to the extent possible, for the children of Deadwood and Lead.

If you have any questions about our position on this matter, feel free to contact me.

Thank you,

Dr. Erik Person, Superintendent