

Reiss, David

From: hedgehog@rushmore.com
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2015 10:27 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak name

Hi David,

This note is to ask you to please leave the name of Harney Peak alone!

We need to stop wasting time and money on such issues when we have more important issues to address in our area, state and country.

It has and should remain Harney Peak.

Thank you
Jim and Darlene Burns
Lead, S.D.

Reiss, David

From: Lorraine Besmer <lorraine.besmer@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2015 10:45 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

Leave the name at Harney Peak! We already are honoring the Sioux with Black Elk Wilderness and Crazy Horse Monument. The name that pertains to owls should be offensive as the sighting of owls portrays death in the Sioux Culture.

What other stupidity are you guys going to do? Rename Custer City, Custer State Park, many of the street names in Custer City, Sturgis and other army officer's namesakes? Joe Foss Field, Patrick Brady Academy and others. Remember that these soldiers were following orders. Also remember the Indians not only killed whites and people from other tribes, but also captured, tortured, raped, and other atrocities!

Harney Peak needs to remain Harney Peak!

Lorraine Besmer
Custer, SD 57730

Reiss, David

From: Bruce Berg <wallst612@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2015 10:48 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

To the Board of Geographic Names,

I am opposed to the board's recommendation to change the name of Harney peak. I have researched Gen. William S. Harney and while he was in overall command of US forces during a conflict where there were civilian Sioux casualties, there's nothing in any of the accounts that states he ordered the killing of noncombatants.

Moreover, Gen. Harney, unauthorized and on his own, initiated and negotiated a peace proposal that ended the fighting.

Harney had a long military career and served The United States with distinction in peace and war.

Capitulating to activists who support only one possible explanation of events is the wrong thing to do.

Leave the name of Harney Peak as it is.

Bruce A. Berg
Box 40
Oacoma, SD 57365

Reiss, David

From: draghnfly@swiftel.net
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2015 11:00 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

I'm in favor of the Lakota name.

Kathy Gustafson

212 8th St.

Brookings, SD 57006

This message was sent using Swiftel WebMail.

Reiss, David

From: Mike <w.r.22@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2015 11:13 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

I very strongly oppose the proposed name change to Harney Peak. Where does this sort of thing end? We cannot commit resources to official name changes every time some person or group deems something offensive to them. Resources like time and money are finite.

Mike Miller
Belle Fourche

Reiss, David

From: Tam Gatje <tgatje@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 12:12 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Comment on renaming of Harney Peak

South Dakota Board of Geographic Names
c/o Department of Tribal Relations
302 E. Dakota
Pierre, SD 57501

Let me begin with a summary: I am totally opposed to the renaming of Harney Peak. I believe this is a historical name that should remain. I strongly encourage the board to allow the name of Harney Peak to remain as it is.

Someone can find fault with any geographic name in South Dakota and the board has been re-naming a number of locations with little reason. I believe most of it boils down to political correctness (gone awry).

I find it especially telling that the board is willing to re-name this peak to “Hinhan Kaga” purported to be translated to “Making of Owls”. However, a number of sources indicate that no one is certain of the translation. How can the board unanimously support a name change they cannot even translate with certainty?

While some claim that the Harney name is offensive, both sides participated in unwarranted killings during the wars. The Lakota people want to re-name this landmark and always state that settlers perpetrated war on their people. It’s quite clear that the Lakota took the Black Hills by force from the Cheyenne and the Crow so they also were not original “land owners”.

While I am not involved in the tourism industry, I believe this change would harm that industry as potential travelers to the area would no longer be able to find it. That will take years to remedy. Tourism is listed as South Dakota’s number 2 industry behind only agriculture. To harm tourism would be foolhardy.

Again, please do not rename Harney Peak. It was been in existence some 150 years and should remain.

Tam Gatje
Pierre, SD

Reiss, David

From: John Fullam <jofu2494@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 12:35 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Change the name

Change the name to hinhan kaga!

Reiss, David

From: gary hanson <ghanson@sio.midco.net>
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 2:20 AM
To: Hansen, June; Bertsch, Eileen; Emery, Steve; Nadenicek, Joe; Vogt, Jay
Cc: Reiss, David
Subject: Renaming of Harney Peak

Importance: High

I hope that Mr. Reiss will bring this E to your attention.

Regarding the renaming of Harney Peak;

First –

The process for determining the name of such an historical and important mountain has been surprisingly brief. Informing the public at large has been significantly lacking. The comment period, May 1 ended before I knew that there was a comment period. Those of us who work and have family activities and busy lives deserve better communication from our officials. Your lack of meetings disenfranchised the majority of South Dakotans. Did you even have any meetings in Eastern South Dakota? Why, after the comment period is long over, do we finally see articles and hear radio discussion about this incredibly important matter? There should have been a much greater outreach effort.

Second –

Hinhan Kaga is NOT the original name of the Black Hills! It is historical fact that the Sioux were not originally from the Black Hills. The Sioux actually took the Hills from the Kiowa and Cheyenne in the early 1880's. The Cheyenne and Kiowa arrived in the Hills in the late 1700s.

Third -

Why shouldn't the name be from a different Indian tribe's culture? They lived in the Black Hills prior to the Sioux and were forced out by the Sioux. When the Sioux moved into South Dakota after being pushed out of Minnesota by the Chippewa they made war with and killed many Arikara and Ree Indians and displaced them before moving on to the Black Hills. Prior to that records show the Sioux were in Wisconsin and it is believed that they originated in Southern Ohio.

Fourth -

If it is a valid argument to change the name of Harney Peak because General Harney oversaw the killing of Lakotan women and children, then it is wrong to rename the Peak with a Lakota name because Lakotans also committed horrible murders of women and children.

The name should be neutral as you have chosen and the language should be English because it is neutral as well.

Fourth -

Your job is an important one and your responsibility to ALL the citizens is great. To change the name of such an important geographic location to a name that will not be pronounced correctly or remembered would be an injustice to our state.

Gary Hanson
500 East Capitol Ave.

Pierre, South Dakota
57501

Reiss, David

From: Cozy Dorton <didirector@goldenwest.net>
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 4:27 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: don't change name

Please don't change the name of Harney Peak.



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

Reiss, David

From: Scott Highland <highs777@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 5:50 AM
To: Paul Stover Soderman
Cc: Reiss, David; Emery, Steve; Nadenicek, Joe; karen k little thunder; Phil Little Thunder; Jon. Edwards; Doug GoodFeather; Tim Schaaf; Myron Pourier; Cathie Soderman; leslie england; Bob G; Nahko Bear; Ben Rhodd; reaglebear@yahoo.com
Subject: Re: Harney Peak Name Change Final Request

South Dakota Board on Geographic Names

I am writing to express my feelings about the possible name change for Harney Peak. My initial feeling on this issue was; "Is it really necessary?" Obviously, there are many people who feel much the way I did. Upon hearing the real story behind General Harney, and not the one I heard in history class in school, I cannot express to you the importance of ridding South Dakota of a deep wound that has been inflicted upon, not only the Native people, but all South Dakotans. Here is a man who not only beat a 12 year old slave girl to death with a belt but then went on to slaughter approximately 40 Native women and children, according to Lt. Warren who was there that day. It was also reported, he would often have his men bring him young Native girls to his tent after conquest. Why is it necessary to continue to memorialize a man capable of these atrocities? I understand "it happened a long time ago", but for just a second, put yourself in the place of Natives, who connect very strongly with their relatives, and feel their pain knowing a place they held sacred, long before Harney committed his atrocities, is now named after that same man. Does this not qualify as offensive? I have heard there is concern about confusing tourists. I am certain that many of those same tourists would be as offended as I am if they knew the true history of the man the peak memorializes. I realize this may seem insignificant to some, but I believe it would send a deep message to the Native people that there is remorse for the actions committed on the behalf of the United States government. My request is to name it anything other than Harney Peak and I trust the board to make the appropriate choice.

Sincerely,

Scott Highland

On Wed, Jun 17, 2015 at 5:11 PM, Paul Stover Soderman <paul.stover.soderman@gmail.com> wrote:

To David Reiss and the South Dakota Board of Geographic Name Change

I would like submit a statement concerning the pending name change of Harney Peak. I am a seventh generation descendant of General William Selby Harney and I stand with the many others who are asking that his name be replaced with a new name that more closely honors the United States governments agreement contained in the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty, concerning the embattled Black Hills ownership. Harney was a member of the 1868 Peace commission , helped design the treaty in St. Louis and is the third signer of that legally binding agreement. Harney's violent and brutal actions at the Blue Water Massacre on Little Thunder's village are well known now.

I have read all the comments submitted to your board and appreciate all the varied views of this issue and really appreciate the opportunity your board has provided us all. I would like to address the name change dissenters main points. We are not a small group of liberal, politically correct troublemakers. I believe we are still outnumbering the name change objectors on this forum.

Secondly, this movement may have caught you unaware and seems to have created an unfounded fear that our intention is change more names (such as Custer.) I have not heard anyone in our group intimate such an intention. The Harney Peak issue is primary and

singular in it's quest for righting a historical wrong. Lastly, yes this proposition if it passes through, will be inconvenient. A new name in an unfamiliar language is confusing. Hihan Kaga would challenge us to see past our own temporal, limited time here and consider the generations to come. My dream would be that mountain, held sacred to many Native Americans, would not be remembered by their children's children as ever having another name other than the one originally given by their own ancestors. Why is that even relevant today? Because of how far it could go to begin to lift the spirit and self esteem of a young native person or perhaps an elder who has given up trying to fight for their homeland rights. It means more than we will ever know.

My hope is that the board will hold on to the courage of it's conviction shown in the vote a month ago to rename the peak to Hihan Kaga. Owl Mountain is what Basil Braveheart is now suggesting as a suitable translation. I believe the renaming will happen now, later or much later for we will continue to work for it, for as we approach the 150 year anniversary of the 1868 Ft. Laramie treaty signing (2018)...what better way to promote and cultivate cross cultural and intergenerational healing and forgiveness.

After studying his life in detail I think my ancestor, Gen Harney, would approve of this name change effort and is proud of us for trying. That is what I wholeheartedly believe.

An irrevocable gift I have received in this process is building healing relations with many members of the Little Thunder family and a beautiful new friendship with Basil BraveHeart. No matter what your final recommendation I will nurture and treasure these relations for life and thank you for being instrumental in these introductions. In closing I remind you of what I said at the public hearings. "The holiest place on earth is where an ancient hatred has become a current love". Let it be our generation that has the brave fortitude to make a trail where few have gone and others may follow.

Very Sincerely,
Paul Stover Soderman
7th Generation Descendant

Reiss, David

From: Dennis Booth <dbooth@pie.midco.net>
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 7:26 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Inquiry from SDBGN website

I am registering my opposition to the renaming of Harney Peak. Sincerely, Dennis Booth. Fort Pierre
, South Dakota.

Reiss, David

From: Kitty Pitts <kitty@rushmore.com>
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 8:27 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Renaming Harney Peak

To Whom It May Concern: Please be advised that I would like to keep the original name Harney Peak. Hinhan Kaga is difficult to pronounce and/or remember. It is an absurd proposal especially since they only 'think' this may have been the original Lakota name. Are you forgetting the Crow and Blackfeet were in the Black Hills before the Lakota?

Rather than renaming, why not refer to the name as an AKA just as the Black Hills are also known as Paha Sapa.

Enough is enough and this has gone beyond common sense. My vote is to keep the name Harney Peak.

Thank You, Katherine Pitts
kitty@rushmore.com

Sent from my iPad

Reiss, David

From: Wayne gilbert <gilbert@rushmore.com>
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 10:07 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Proposed Name Change Comment

Dear Mr. Reiss:

I grew up in the Black Hills area, and have hiked to the top of "Harney Peak" over thirty times, in all kinds of weather. I expect that I will hike it several more times. I am old enough to have been passed by Jeeps on the Sylvan Lake Trail when those excursions were in operation.

The name "Harney Peak" has no meaning whatever to me. It never has. It may as well be called "John Doe Peak." I think that the name "Hinhan Kaga" has far more significance, and just the name change in and of itself has the potential of enhancing the experience of the hike to the top. I suspect that a significant number of opponents have not actually experienced that hike

The pronunciation issue is an unfortunate red herring. I had to be corrected a few times before I learned how to correctly pronounce our Governor's name, but I did learn it because, of course, it's the right thing to do. I imagine that many non-native Alaskans had a learning curve with the name "Denali." Yet, to their credit, Alaska's congressional delegation is urging that "Mt. McKinley" be renamed "Denali." Somehow, Australians have managed to recover from the name change of "Ayers Rock" to "Uluru." The world has watched and is watching those name changes. I am confident that no tourist will be confused and made to blunder around the Black Hills wondering where "Harney Peak" disappeared to.

I respectfully submit that the name change to "Hinhan Kaga" is the right thing to do.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Wayne Gilbert
832 Fairview Drive
Belle Fourche, SD 57717
605-348-6615
Cell 605-641-5642
gilbert@rushmore.com

Reiss, David

From: laughing@gwtc.net
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 10:08 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Hinhan Kaga

Dear Mr. Reiss,

I am adding my support and voice to rename Harney Peak to Hinhan Kaga. I love the name, and the English translation, Making of Owls. With our beautiful Lakota culture surrounding us, I see this name change has so many advantages.

One, a small step towards healing with the Lakota, who feel the name Harney is repugnant to them for understandable and historical reasons. Two, tourism can use the name change to expand on our Native American culture which brings visitors to Paha Sapa.

Three, I can see a future state run learning center, using owls as a bridge to natives and tourists. Owls are sacred to so many, every culture in our world honors the owl and where better to see them and learn about them than the Black Hills. As a now retired Museum Exhibit designer and coordinator (The Mammoth Site of Hot Springs, SD), I can see such a opportunity here...an advantageous opportunity for so many.

Please follow through on the recommendation of the South Dakota Board of Geographic Names and change the name.

Thank you very much! I am so looking forward to this name change action.

Kathleen C. Anderson
27344 Flagstone Rd, P.O. Box 460
Hot Springs, SD 57747

Reiss, David

From: Bonnie R <BonnieRuggieri@live.com>
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 11:20 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak name change

David,

I recently read an article in the Rapid City Journal concerning how to pronounce Hinhan Kaga. It stated that the first word sounds like, "een-hahn" with soft N's, and the second part includes a guttural-sounding "k." I do not know how to say N softly. Nor do I know how to make K sound guttural without straining. With this explanation in mind, I waited to hear someone pronounce it. I got that opportunity listening to a newscast this week. The anchor of a Rapid City news broadcast brought up the subject stating that a Legislator was against the name change because it was too hard to pronounce. I then listened to her mispronounce it. If a well educated newscaster can't pronounce it, who can? Lakota is a dying language, and I'd bet that most Lakota can't even pronounce it correctly. The whole idea of a name change is absurd! You can't change history just because you don't like it. What other re-naming of history is next? Weren't the Indians opposed to Mount Rushmore being carved? Should we change that to the Lakota words for "We hate this?" What can of worms are we opening, and where do we draw the line?

Bonnie Ruggieri
531 Bear Ave
Hot Springs, S.D. 57747
605-745-6049
bonnieruggieri@live.com

Reiss, David

From: alice willman <massageaw00@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 11:53 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney peak

PLEASE DO NOT CHANGE THE NAME OF HARNEY PEAK. Is foolish,plus expensive,and will only cause confusion. I am seeing where most of the comments are NOT for it,Please reconsider This has not been thought out well,and if it comes to this, We in the state need a vote.

Concerned taxpayer and voter

Sent from my iPad

Reiss, David

From: Robert Travis <rtravis605@pie.midco.net>
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 11:55 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: name change

Sirs,

Do not change the name of Harney Peak. Because a few revisionist historians want to dishonor a general is not reason enough to commit to all of the problems and expenses involved in making a change. There were reasons enough that the army was fighting in the first place.

I don't believe that the people who want the name change would really like to open a review of atrocities committed by the army's opponents.

Sincerely,

Bob Travis

Reiss, David

From: Carol Doyle <addoyle@rushmore.com>
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 1:40 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

Dear Sir:

We sincerely hope that the committee DOES NOT change the name of Harney Peak. The possible name chosen is nearly impossible to pronounce and we do not understand what Owls have to do with that beautiful peak. It has been Harney for many years, all the maps say Harney, the tourists understand Harney – please leave it alone.

We understand he was not a nice person in his day by murdering women and children – but those were the times and the Native Americans murdered innocent women and children too. Renaming the peak will not change what happened in the past.

Please consider our request -
Carol Doyle & family

Reiss, David

From: Irene O <idolsen@venturecomm.net>
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 1:43 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: name

We do not like the name you chose for Harney Peak. We cannot pronounce it. We cannot spell it. We can not understand it. Even YOU aren't certain of the meaning. Then y ou brag about choosing it in less than 30 minutes?

Reiss, David

From: Aglassylady51 <aglassylady51@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 1:57 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

Why does everyone want to change history? The name should stay as is, HARNEY PEAK!!!

Annette Hinker
Pierre

Sent from my iPad

Reiss, David

From: Lee Lampert <thebestchocolate@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 2:17 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

Why? Why in the world are we considering to change the name of a location known by locals, visitors, and people around the world? It has been called "Harney Peak" since the 1800's! What in the world is wrong with it then? The fact that William Harney did a few wrongs in the past? How, by changing the name, will that fix those actions done back then? As someone who was born and raised here in the Black Hills, it never crossed my mind that this peak was named after an evil, murderous man. The only reason we know of this is because of the proposition to change the peak's name! It will always be known as "Harney Peak" regardless of any decision that is made.

-Lee Lampert

Reiss, David

From: Ronald Erickson <rsjee@rap.midco.net>
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 2:22 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

Dear Mr. Reiss,

It is our opinion that Harney Peak should not be renamed.

The name Hinhan Kaga is not an historical name. No one alive has ever called it that. There is no prior precedent.

Changing the name because General Harney made war on the Sioux should also bring up a conversation about how the Sioux made war on the Blackfeet, Poncas, Cheyenne and various other Indian tribes. Genocide was the accepted practice to assure said tribes would stay out of desired territories. It's all Pots and Black Kettles.

If the name is changed, all the maps and books would have to be changed. How many entities would have to be contacted to complete it?

Please contact the SD office of tourism, the Federal government and all the tourist information publishers to get an estimate of the cost. Then inform the taxpayers of that estimate.

Finally, everyone who lives here will always refer to it as Harney Peak. It's a habit. We also talk to tourists all the time. "You should hike up to Harney Peak! The view is wonderful!" Where? Then we would have to explain about how the Indians were upset so everything had to be changed for them. And no we don't remember what it is called now.

Thanks for your time,
Jane and Ron Erickson
Rapid City, SD.

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<https://www.avast.com/antivirus>

Reiss, David

From: Ramona Hirsch <ramona1618@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 3:27 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

I would prefer if you did NOT change the name. I was born and raised in South Dakota and still live here in Rapid City. I have hiked "Harney" many times with family and friends. Our memories will be referred as "do you remember when we hiked Harney".

Thank you for your time and consideration!
Ramona Hirsch
605-399-1075

Reiss, David

From: DeCory, Jace <Jace.DeCory@bhsu.edu>
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 3:43 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: FW: Hinhan Kaga name change

Dear David and Committee-- A short note to let you know that the petitions to have the name change to Black Elk Peak were from us at BH. We understand if this is not going to work and were surprised that a more difficult Lakota name was selected by the Committee. To further complicate things, there are more Lakota names for the Mountain than the Making of Owls one. Owl Created Mountain is also another translation for Hinhan Kaga Paha. (Okawati Paha – Gathering Place/Hill and Wakinyan Wahohpi - Thunderbird's Nest are two other names) If the close relatives of Harney are wanting the name change, then folks should also take that into consideration. It would be a good step toward combatting racist attitudes and help heal old wounds. As you have been contemplating, names are indeed a reflection of how the people view things. Do we want to be known as a racist state? I think not. Good luck in your discussions which should begin with a prayer, or a silent prayer, at least. Be well, Jace

Reiss, David

From: Marguerite Kleven <mkleven@rushmore.com>
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 4:03 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Name Change Harney Peak

To: South Dakota Board of Geographic Names

In recognition of the historical significance of Harney Peak, I ask you to retain that name. There are so many references to this area throughout the history of South Dakota as Harney Peak. I think it is totally wrong to try to change history in this way. Soon it could be very difficult to trust any of the past books and literature and understand. I also don't think there are very many who attach any significance, honor or otherwise to the names already given. Many of the changes that have already been made go against the temper and thoughts of the people of the era and it is wrong to try to attach an issue discrimination at this point in time. This also reflects the history of the given period.

In the defense of retaining historical significance, please discontinue the process of messing with the names that were meaningful at the time they were issued.

Marguerite Kleven
Meade County, SD



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Reiss, David

From: Tim Schaaf <Tim@bouldershelter.org>
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 5:28 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Owl Mt

Mr. Reiss,

I would like to add my support to changing the name of Harney Peak to Owl Mountain. Given Gen. Harney's brutal treatment of Native American people, it is shameful to continue to honor him in this way. I believe his atrocities far outweigh the good that he did in service of our country.

This act, though it may be laborious and expensive, could go a long way in helping heal the cultural divide that continues between American citizens.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Regards,

Tim Schaaf

Reiss, David

From: Lanny V Stricherz <lannys9@sio.midco.net>
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 5:38 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Please add my voice

Mr Reiss,

Please add my voice to the list of those calling for the renaming Harney Peak to Hinhan Kaga, as a means of honoring our Lakota brothers and sisters as a means of helping to heal the wounds that have been inflicted on them over the past century and a half.

Sincerely,
Lanny Stricherz
Sioux Falls, SD
605-977-7669

Reiss, David

From: Jennifer Weston <edwards.weston@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 6:24 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: SD Board on Geographic Names: public comment submission

SD Board on Geographic Names Department of Tribal Relations 302 East Dakota
Pierre, SD 57501-3369

Dear SDBGN board members,

I write to express my strong support for your recommendation to change the name of Harney Peak to Hinhan Kaga (Making of Owls), the traditional Lakota name.

Thank you for providing the public with an opportunity to submit written comments. I hope you will vote soon to adopt a formal, permanent change.

Best regards,

Jennifer (Edwards) Weston
PO Box 551
McLaughlin, SD 57642

Reiss, David

From: Pat Steinman <walleyesone@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 7:44 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

Please do not change the name.

Pat Steinman

Reiss, David

From: myron@blackelkdevelopment.com
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2015 8:18 PM
To: Reiss, David; lyost@usgs.gov
Subject: Harney Peak Name Change
Attachments: Letter.pdf

Importance: High

Dear Mr. Reiss ,

Please submit my letter to support the name change of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak.

Sincerely,

Myron W. Pourier

Date: June 19, 2015

SD Board on Geographic Names

Dept. of Tribal Relations

302 East Dakota

Pierre, SD. 57501

Attn: David Reiss

Dear Mr. Reiss,

I am writing this letter with great respect and honor as a Veteran of the United States Armed Forces and a lifetime member of the Disabled American Veterans of America. The intent is to encourage a neutral name change to Harney Peak located in the Beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota, as you know from the start of this peaceful campaign to change the name of Harney Peak to Black Elk that this campaign has had many twists and turns in regards to racial slurs. The original intent was to change a name of a mountain to neutral name, a name that is respected by many not only in South Dakota but more so throughout the world, a name that reflects the beauty, serenity and captures the sacredness of the Black Hills, a name that is well known and easily to pronounce, a neutral name as "BLACK ELK PEAK" that we had suggested in the beginning along with an elderly gentleman named Mr. Basil Brave Heart.

I truly believe that if we as ordinary individuals can unite in solidarity through a cultural understanding that we can as a Nation cease and eventually stop these current atrocities that plague are Country today in the media. With a neutral name change like Black Elk Peak keeping in mind that Black Elk Vision's as told to John G. Neihardt through Ben Black Elk translator for his father Nicholas Black Elk, that this famous vision occurred on top of Harney Peak. Today the book itself has brought attention to the vision of Black Elk with true unity through cultural understanding, respect, compassion and love for one another as individual people.

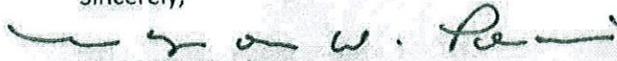
As the SD Board on Geographic Names comes to conclusion I humbly request that all documents be forwarded to the US Board on Geographic Names to make a final decision on the Harney Peak name change that actually began 45 years ago from a couple name Ray and Mary Smith from Claremont, California, this very ethical decision to give a mountain a neutral name of Black Elk Peak was never decided upon at that time in history, certainly the people throughout this Great Nation at that time had the same view point of our people today.

Enclosing I encourage both the South Dakota and Federal Board to make an ethical decision based on hard facts and not from South Dakota/Tribal Political Officials who have weighed in either verbally or in writing and encouraged the SDBGN to not change the name to a neutral name such as Black Elk Peak.

I am very positive that if any member of the SDGBN has read "Black Elk Speaks" will agree Black Elk Peak would be a beautiful and so deserving name, a name that is the ethical essence of the Black Hills of South Dakota a name that is synonymous with the serenity of the Black Hills. I humbly request the new name of Harney Peak be change to Black Elk Peak.

Mitakuye Oyasin- Translates to "We Are Related" in the Sioux Language.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Myron W. Pourier". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Myron W. Pourier

Great-Great Grandson of Black Elk