

Reiss, David

From: Bryce Schaffer <bryceschaffer72@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 03, 2015 7:40 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: The name of Harney Peak

Dear Sir,

I have heard you are collecting the public's comments on the proposed name change of Harney Peak of the Black Hills. As a lifetime resident of the state and one who grew up in the Hills (Custer) I don't believe a name change is in order nor do I see a valid reason why it should.

Thank you,
Bryce Schaffer

Sent from Windows Mail

Reiss, David

From: Linda Pray <allpray.pray@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 03, 2015 8:36 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Re: Harney Peak Name Change

This is very upsetting to have "someone or group" come along and think they can just do what they want and change the name of Harney Peak after all this time. It's a well known land mark with signs, maps, and trails leading to it's beauty. If we give in to this "whim" what more will they want? They will constantly be unsatisfied and will continue to seek other ways to attract attention!

Linda Pray
13761 Ghost Canyon Rd
Hermosa, SD 57744

Reiss, David

From: Cleon Diers <cdiers2@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 03, 2015 10:45 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Name Change

Harney Peak name should be left was is. The excuse for changing the name is that Harney killed Indian women and children. I know Indian warriors killed many white women and children. Why are these issues always a one way streets? Enough of this politically correct crap!

Reiss, David

From: chargatje@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, June 03, 2015 12:29 PM
To: Reiss, David; chargatje@aol.com
Subject: Harney Peak

I would like to comment on renaming Harney Peak.

First of all, I object to the renaming ---PERIOD, Everyone is offended by something and we can't rename everything that is offensive to them. It is an historical name, good or bad. We can't erase history by renaming something. Does this mean that anything that previously referenced Harney Peak will be obsolete?

Second, if you must rename it, rename it to something that the majority of South Dakotans can have reference to and that has a meaning with which we can all identify.

We have already renamed many places in SD to pacify an offended Native American. And what in the world does Harney Peak have to do with owls? (If that is truly the meaning of the suggested name. We're not even sure that's what it means.)

I suggest if you must rename it, name it Harmony Peak. It is a forward-looking name that appeals to all South Dakotans, not a vocal minority.

Sincerely,

Char Gatje
Pierre SD
(Former Black Hills resident)

Reiss, David

From: Dakotahof <dakotahof1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 03, 2015 4:48 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: renaming Harney Peak?

We have abandoned a good deal of Black Hills and South Dakota history over the years in deference to the few who object to the “murders” committed by our European/American ancestors of a century or two ago. Before we throw General Harney under the bus and rename his peak for owls, please try to remember that Harney’s command was sent here by **our American government**, *“to avenge the massacre of Lt. J.L. Gratten and 34 men by Oglala and Brule Sioux on August 19th, 1854 and to secure safe travel for users of the Oregon Trail”* (source: *The Wi-Iyohi Monthly Bulletin of SD Historical Society*).

Thank you for your time.

Ray Cowdery
PO Box 2600
Rapid City SD 57709-2600

Reiss, David

From: Kris Blom <blomkris@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 03, 2015 6:45 PM
To: Reiss, David

I want to know why it is that people want to change the name of Harney Peak? Just because you don't like the person that the place was name by. That would be like changing the name of our tn Custer just because he was not a very nice person either. This is changing history. Futhermore, what about the cost? You will have to change maps, signs, etc. *I feel that our state could spent its money in a far better way. Kris Blom.*

Reiss, David

From: Karlene Griffiee <kdgriffiee@knology.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 03, 2015 9:23 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

First off several people that I don't think had anything against any other race are getting that way due to all the name changes. Annie Tellent School Shannon Co. and now Harney Peak
Maybe we need to change Crazy Horse because he killed lots of whites. More importantly Spain sold this land to France then the US bought it from France So why did the US have to pay for it again and again. By making this name change it won't change the past but I am sure it will stir up a lot more hate towards non whites, who also killed non whites to get more land and food.

Dwight Griffiee
1507 Jackson St.
Sturgis, SD 57785
605-206-1136

Reiss, David

From: Jessica K <blackjaguararts@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 03, 2015 10:02 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Comments: Harney Peak Name Change

Hello,

I am writing to you in gratitude of every member of the South Dakota Board on Geographic Names who voted in support of changing the name of Harney Peak to Hinhan Kaga, and to add my support as well.

To implement this change is a restoration of the rightful name of this sacred mountain and a reparation to the intergenerational pain carried by the descendents of the Lakota people who suffered such brutal and grievous losses at the order of William S. Harney more than 100 years ago.

I thank you for having the wisdom to remove this bloody name staining this beautiful peak and replace it with a rightful name, one of peace.

My deep appreciation,

Jessica Kraskian

Reiss, David

From: msu57a <msu57a@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 03, 2015 10:04 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Renaming Harney Peak

Dear David Reiss,
I obtained your email from the Rapid City Journal. In response to the huge debate of renaming Harney Peak, I would like to say that for the last 60 years of my life I have always known Harney Peak as Harney Peak. My family has lived in the Rapid City area for about 70 years and did many hiking adventures up to the top. To rename a landmark to make the population happy or to be politically correct is not right.

Thank you,

Susan Yackley Rabenberg
12178 Buckhorn Estates
Custer, SD 57730

Reiss, David

From: Leonard & Kay Benson <lkbenson@gwtc.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 04, 2015 10:00 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak issue

Leave Harney Peak alone. History is History- Money and time could be spent for better and wiser use.

Kay Benson

Reiss, David

From: Coli Jo Spencer <paperchase81@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 04, 2015 10:16 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Please Do Not Change the name of Harney Peak

While I acknowledge the need to recognize Native American traditions and names, and possibly the fact that Harney was an unsavory character, not everything needs to be turned upside down to be respectful.

Best Regards,

*Coli Jo Spencer, Paralegal
Johnson Eiesland Law Offices, P.C.
www.JohnsonEiesland.com
4020 Jackson Boulevard
Rapid City, South Dakota 57709-6900
(605) 348-7300
email: paperchase81@gmail.com*

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Reiss, David

From: Denise Sprague <drickertsprague@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 04, 2015 11:27 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak re-naming

Please add my name to the list of those opposed to the re-naming of Harney Peak.

Thank you,

Denise Sprague
2107 Harney Drive
Rapid City, SD 57702

Reiss, David

From: Ken <kenmarcys@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 04, 2015 11:36 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Barney name change

I am against the Harney Peak name change

Sent from my iPhone

Reiss, David

From: judith franzel <judith71951@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 04, 2015 12:02 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak name change

I'd like to voice the opinions of my husband and me. We would much prefer that a name on a mountain, monument, or other public treasure should not be changed. It has recognition and history and there is no GOOD reason to change it. Just because another "special interest group" wants one change after another is not a good reason. Our history is disappearing because of "special interest groups" and their demands. Besides, another name no one can pronounce is rather a weak reason.

Please leave it Harney Peak!!

Thank you for listening to our reasons.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Franzel
13868 SD Hwy 40
Hermosa, SD 57744

judith franzel
judith71951@aol.com

Reiss, David

From: rudes <nudigsboothill@gwtc.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 04, 2015 12:23 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Name change Harney Peak

As an individual engaged in the tourism industry, as is much of our state, please don't change the name of Harney Peak to a name that is difficult to pronounce, and will cause much confusion.

What is next, change the county and city of Custer?

Thank you, Barbara Rude

243 Desperado Lane nudigsboothill@gwtc.net
Custer, S,D, 55730

Reiss, David

From: Betty Blaszkowski <bmjblaszkowski@rushmore.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 04, 2015 2:02 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: name for Harney Peak

I do not like the proposed name change for Harney Peak! A lot of people can not pronounce it, relate to it or remember it. Why not leave the name as it is so it is not confusing for the tourist as well as most of the people who live here. It is wrong to change names just because a few people decide they have something against the name. If it has to be changed why not go with a easily pronounced name like Harmony Peak? We should all be trying to live in harmony and not looking for things to complain about!

Thank you for your consideration.

Reiss, David

From: Jared Rittberger <jrittber@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 04, 2015 2:42 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

Zdravstvuyte David!

The changing of names by unelected bureaucrats is nothing new. I can think of three examples right away: Saigon to Ho Chi Minh City, St. Petersburg to Leningrad, and Volgograd to Stalingrad. Of course, these examples came from communist regimes and it is indicative of the overall degenerative nature of your work and of this country.

Now that you exalted comrades have opened this Pandora's Box, what's next? Will you change the names of Custer Peak, Terry Peak, Crook Mountain, and Sheridan Lake just to name a few? Like the despicable and bloodthirsty Gen. Harney, all of these places are also named after evil, white U.S. Army officers who ruthlessly killed peaceful Native Americans, who lived in peace and harmony here for thousands of years sitting around campfires singing kumbaya, yada, yada, yada. While you're at it, change the name of Pierre because it's named after Pierre Chouteau, an evil, white fur trader who not only killed cuddly little animals but probably also defrauded and brought diseases to Native Americans in the process. And have your buddy Obama change the name of Washington D.C. because it's named after an evil white slave owner.

But if you're going to change names, at least come up with something decent. Your half-baked solution to this sudden racist name crisis is to call our highest peak the equivalent of "Two Owls Screwing?" And Harney Peak was offensive?

Call it what you want. But for those of us who have to work for a living and don't have time to have protest marches and attend your politically correct, re-education camp committee meetings, it will always be Harney Peak.

Do svidaniya tovarisch,
Jared Rittberger

Reiss, David

From: Ted & Sharon Ruffedt <tsruffedt@rushmore.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 04, 2015 3:57 PM
To: Reiss, David

Dear David,

I am writing to you and the Board about the renaming of Harney Peak. Please, please, please don't change the name of Harney Peak. It has always been Harney Peak and always will be. It is part of our SD history, so why change it. History can't be changed and it is what made SD what it is today.

Changing the name to Hinhan Kaga is absolutely ridiculous. Who can even pronounce it except maybe a few elderly Lakota people.

Changing the name of this Peak and other locations in SD to satisfy a few disgruntled people is so totally wrong. The atrocities committed by the whites and the Indians in the Pioneer Days and before were horrible, but they did happen and because of, areas in SD were so named. Why change them now? It won't change history or what happened.

I think it's time the SD Board on Geographic Names takes a stand for SD and leave ALL names of locations, peaks, parks, rivers, creeks, etc. alone. Hopefully the Board will change their minds on renaming Harney Peak and in the future, not jump so quickly to satisfy a few people that say they are being racially slurred against.

Sharon Ruffedt
Rapid City, SD 57701

Reiss, David

From: Bonnie Guerre <bonnieguerre@dishmail.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 04, 2015 4:01 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Keep "Harney Peak" Name

Mr. Reiss;

After reviewing comments from recent SD Board on Geographic Names hearings, there is no substantial reason to change the Name of Harney Peak. Please avoid confusion -- perhaps worldwide confusion -- and maintain the Name of "*Harney Peak*" for the highest geographical point east of the Rocky Mountains.

Thank you,
Bonnie E. Guerre
Pennington County resident

Reiss, David

From: Selina Gasseling <seligassel@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 04, 2015 8:57 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak name change

David Reiss and Committee,

My Husband, Jack, are opposed to the changing of the name of Harney peak.

I visited with a Lakota woman the other day who was having a struggle pronouncing the proposed name.

It is ridiculous thinking a name change will change History.

Sincerely,
Selina Gasseling
1815 Evergreen Drive
Rapid City, S.D. 57702

Reiss, David

From: Dustin Blosmo <dustin.blosmo@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 04, 2015 10:58 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: name change "Harney peak"

I oppose the changing of Harney Peak for two reasons, one being it is very costly to change names on maps, signage, and books. Two : I oppose changing the name because General Harney killed some Indians back in the day. Indians killed lots of white people also. This business of changing everything because it offends someone has gotten out of hand and some common sense needs to be used. Thank You for listening.

Reiss, David

From: Red Hill Ranch <redhillranch@wyoaac.org>
Sent: Friday, June 05, 2015 8:25 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

History cannot be changed. Do not proceed with changing the name of Harney Peak to satisfy one group of people. Just leave it

Harney Peak. If you feel you must make a change – think about the rest us people who have only know it as Harney peak.

Thank you, Joanne Nicholas

Reiss, David

From: Phil Geenen <pgeenen@gwtc.net>
Sent: Friday, June 05, 2015 4:04 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

Leave the name as is. I have lived in SD since 1978. My children, grandchildren, wife and I have climbed the trails leading to Harney Peak for years. If a few people protest the name, but the majority remain neutral and fail to voice their concerns, that does not mean the few should prevail. Put it to a state wide vote.

Sent from my iPad

Reiss, David

From: carol@rap.midco.net
Sent: Friday, June 05, 2015 7:51 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

Renaming Harney Peak should be placed on the ballot for all of the people of SD to have the opportunity to vote on. This issue is too huge for only five people to be able to have the final say. And Hinhan Kaga is awful. The world will be making jokes of this.

Carol Lauck

Rapid City, SD 57002

Reiss, David

From: demurphy <demurphy@goldenwest.net>
Sent: Saturday, June 06, 2015 12:33 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Proposed Harney Peak name change

I STRONGLY support changing the name from "Harney Peak" to the traditional Lakota name "Hinhan Kaga" (Making of Owls). It is, in my estimation, very appropriate, since the Lakota had named it LONG before we, the non-Lakota arrived. Thanks for the efforts and work done to see this respectful acknowledgement of Lakota presence come to fruition. Elaine Murphy, presently living at 27279 Memorial Rd, Hot Springs.

Reiss, David

From: Marian Gates <mbitzgates@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 06, 2015 7:36 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak Name Change

Please do not rename Harney Peak to the name that is not memorable at all. I prefer no racial connections. I love Harmony Peak.

Marian Gates
2529 Cruz Dr.
Rapid City, SD 57702
605 545 3062

Reiss, David

From: m. c. bauder <dangmeany@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 06, 2015 8:59 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Inquiry from SDBGN website

i want to say that i see absolutely NO reason to change the name of harney peak....if you trace the history of this request i believe you will discover that the originator didnt respect his own culture by wanting it named after black elk.

history IS messy at times, history IS horrific at times....that is just the way of the world.

i do think at times this politically correct business gets carried waaaaaaay too far. i wonder if it has occurred to anyone that perhaps the CRAZY HORSE carving is offensive to many of us!

thank you for the chance to let my opinion be voiced

m c bauder

Reiss, David

From: Milo Winter <rmwinter@rushmore.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 07, 2015 10:43 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak name change

I believe the proposed Lakota language name will not resonate because most people will not understand the meaning of the Lakota words. An English name would be better as it would then make sense to the majority of the people visiting or referring to the mountain. Also, a one-word name followed by "peak" would likely be more effective and could still honor Lakota heritage.

Thank you for your consideration.

-Milo Winter

Reiss, David

From: Paul Rasporich <paulrasporich@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 07, 2015 8:35 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak Name Change Proposal
Attachments: BlackElkPeakNeihardtWildernessproposal.docx; Joseph Campbell on Harney Peak.mov

Hi David,

Attached is a letter with a name change proposal of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak, and from the Black Elk Wilderness area to the Neihardt Wilderness Area.

Thanks for your consideration,

Paul Rasporich

Letter to David Reiss, Director of Intergovernmental Programs at the South Dakota Board on Geographic Names, suggesting why renaming Harney Peak, Black Elk Peak, supported by the Neihardt Wilderness Area could be a great symbolic act of Reconciliation in North America.

June 7th, 2015

Dear David,

I have been watching with great interest, the latest developments of the renaming process of Harney Peak from the perspective of a teacher of the some of the descendants of the Lakota that fled to Grandmother's Land (Canada) for a better life after the Wounded Knee Massacre. Their young lives are difficult ones, and often cut short as a direct result of Colonialism, intergenerational trauma, lateral violence, and government policy.

Up here in Canada this month, the word being used right now to describe our relationship with the First Nations to the rest of the world is Genocide. Us Canadians have smugly believed that our treatment and attitudes toward First Nations people was better than our US counterparts. No more. In fact the reservation system created in Canada was so successful, that it was recreated in South Africa. The underpinnings of Apartheid came from Canada, and still exist - as I am made painfully aware through my First Nations student's daily interactions with mainstream society.

First Nations Leaders in Canada this week are calling for reconciliatory action. They are tired of endless apologies without action. As Canadians are largely in denial about the atrocities that have taken place in residential school, as outlined in the Truth and Reconciliation report - reconciliation seems like a lofty concept that is a long way off in Canada.

America (you) can help the healing process, with a symbolic act of Reconciliation with the First Nations.

Renaming Harney Peak in South Dakota, to Black Elk Peak (the Lakota Visionary Nicholas Black Elk), as Black Elk's great-grandson Myron Pourier eloquently points out, "exemplifies that the continuous reconciliation exist from two worlds that are striving to make our Nation a better place to live and enjoy, a Nation that is free from racism, hatred and the misunderstanding of who we are as people."

Perhaps in no other literature than *Black Elk Speaks*, has there been such an attempt by the two cultures to understand one another through Nicholas Black Elk and John Neihardt. The collaboration of John Neihardt and Nicholas Black Elk spoke in a seamless voice, because both men ultimately recognized that we all are one.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FI5WBd4mpKw>

If these two men had never met, the world would have been at a significant mainstream cultural loss. The Swiss psychologist Carl Jung and the American mythologist Joseph Campbell were profoundly influenced by the book, *Black Elk Speaks*. In fact, the mythologist Joseph Campbell, cited *Black Elk Speaks* as the most influential work in his penning *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*. (See the attached Video).

A young filmmaker by the name of George Lucas was greatly influenced by Campbell's work when he developed his movie - *Star Wars*.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bSyyqctan2c>

After *Star Wars*, another screenwriter Christopher Vogler created a mythic story structure based on that of George Lucas which has become a formula for success in Hollywood.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gSuA8zEWAs>

One might say that movies such as *Star Wars*, *The Matrix*, *The Lion King*, and countless other films –would not exist were it not for Black Elk and Neihardt.

Also, the revered talk show host Dick Cavett said that he had never received more mail after an interview, that the one that he did with John Neihardt in which Cavett stated that, *John Neihardt told his immortal story of Black Elk and the vision this mystic and noble American Indian had so fortunately settled upon Neihardt as the man with the skills and understanding to bring his colorful and spiritual vision to the world*. Cavett also said that, *The author, Dee Brown mentioned seeing my show with Neihardt, adding, "Thousands of books have been written about Indians, and there are many fine ones. But if you could only preserve one book about the American Indian, it would have to be "Black Elk Speaks."*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hRkbhlzV0bI>

A criticism of the renaming to Black Elk Peak has also been that the area of the ascent to Harney Peak is already called the Black Elk Wilderness area. As John Neihardt provided the base or the support from which Black Elk was able to externalize his vision atop the peak, I would suggest that the current Black Elk Wilderness area might also be renamed the Neihardt Wilderness area, as John Neihardt and his daughters Enid and Hilda accompanied Black Elk and his son Ben on the ascent where Black Elk spoke of his famous vision for all men.

Renaming the Harney Peak also makes sense from an economic, Tourism perspective. A Black Elk/Neihardt Interpretive Centre beside Sylvan Lake would generate a lot more revenue than what currently exists (nothing at the base).

With this renaming, a ceremony atop Harney Peak with both the descendants of the Neihardt and Black Elk families, as well as representatives from the State of South Dakota, Nebraska, and the President should occur. Also, the pipe that Black Elk did his famous prayer atop Harney, which currently resides at the Neihardt Centre in Nebraska might be reawakened by a member of the Black Elk Family in the peak in a spirit of reconciliation.

And perhaps during this ceremony, if all of our hearts and minds are in the spirit of reconciliation, there should be, "a little lightning, a little thunder, and a little rain."

Sincerely,

Paul Rasporich
Artist/Teacher
Okotoks, Alberta,
Canada

Reiss, David

From: Beth Spitzer <spitfire@gwtc.net>
Sent: Sunday, June 07, 2015 10:38 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak name change

Dear Mr. Reiss,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed name change for Harney Peak.

My opposition is mainly based on practicality. The mountain has had this name since the 1850s. Changing the name means countless dollars spent as signs, advertising, print media, brochures, guidebooks, etc. are changed by the State of SD.

And the name that it is being changed to is Hinhan Kaga—How do you even pronounce that? The majority of locals are not going to call it by its new name because first, they can't pronounce it and second, they won't even be aware that the name has changed because who would think that a name would change after 165 years? So when a tourist asks a local what hike they should do while they are in the Hills, the local is going to say, "Harney Peak." The tourist will look for that trail and be unable to find it because now it has been renamed something else. Confusion will reign.

I think the name change is a waste of money and impractical.

Sincerely,
Beth Spitzer
27528 Renee Ct.
Hot Springs, SD 57747
605-745-4876

Reiss, David

From: theciska@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2015 8:41 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Please

Please remove Harney from "Harney peak" It is offensive and unnecessary .
I support any name the does not contain his name Franciska moore

Sent from my iPhone