



Mayor Kaumo & City Councilors
212 D Street, Rock Springs, WY 82901
(307) 352-1510 · www.rswy.net

March 25, 2020

Sweetwater County
Board of County Commissioners
80 W. Flaming Gorge Way
Green River, WY 82935

RE: Specific Purpose Tax Initiative – COVID-19

Dear Chairman Wendling and Honorable Commissioners,

I hope this finds you all safe and well during these times of economic uncertainty. The governing body of the City of Rock Springs wishes to share our thoughts and concerns moving forward in relation to the Specific Purpose Tax Ballot Initiative, and the effects of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic. The future of this initiative and the everlasting need for funding assistance particularly within our infrastructure needs remains at high priority; however, due to the current status of the economy and the uncertainty of what the future might unfold, we believe in doing what's best for the constituencies in which we were elected to represent. This has left us making the difficult decision to suspend our efforts with this tax indefinitely, in hopes of being able to reintroduce such efforts for a Special Election next year or heaven forbid, the following election year should it be fit, and should this virus fail to be mitigated by such a time.

The trying times of economic prosperity rely solely on the vaccination and remediation of the novel coronavirus epidemic, with most reports indicating such a resolution unavailable through the end of the year if not longer. As you're all aware, many of our local businesses have been asked to, hopefully temporarily, shut their doors while we as government continue to limit our very own access in preparation for the inevitable. It seems irresponsible to impose a tax on our constituencies during times of unemployment rise, and global stock market fall.

An extortionate amount of hard work and dedication has been put into this tax effort to help our never-ending needs as communities, which truly makes it a shame to see these efforts placed on hold. In the eyes of our Council, we feel we owe it to our citizens to suspend the initiative and help one another get back on their feet. Perhaps such a decision will be respected to a point wherein the tax will have another opportunity for success when time prevails. We fear if we continue marching forward with its current progress that we may be setting ourselves



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up for simply the opposite. We would also like to share that we have been in contact with our two sponsorships for this initiative and the stance we've taken. While disappointed in terms of progress and light shining through at the end of the tunnel, a unanimous and respectful understanding was shared at conclusion.

We sincerely appreciate the openness you've displayed to the City of Rock Springs throughout this process and in particular, the allocation you've agreed to set forth. We hope to re-open the vault and dust-off the books once again in the very near future. We wish you and our neighboring families well as we continue to band together during these times of need.

Respectfully,

Timothy A. Kaumo

Timothy A. Kaumo, Mayor
City of Rock Springs