



CITY OF LARAMIE
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May 5, 2020

Jessica Murkin
Office of State Lands and Investments
122 W. 25th Str. – Herschler Bldg 1W
Cheyenne, WY 82002

RE: Letter of Support for the Pilot Hill State Land Exchange Proposal

Ms. Murkin:

The Laramie City Council is pleased to offer their support for the Pilot Hill land-swap proposal and requests that this letter be included in the public record for the 60-day comment period that ends on June 3, 2020.

This January City Council passed Resolution 2020-08, adopting policy goals and objectives for 2020. Under the section 'Maintain and Improve City Services to Residents, Milestone #4' it states; "Support effort to acquire additional recreational and open space east of Laramie (Pilot Hill) for aquifer protection".

Of utmost importance to us is the protection of the Casper Aquifer recharge zone, of which the Pilot Hill lands are a part of, to ensure a pristine municipal water supply for our residents. Protecting this area from development will help to solidify Laramie's future by securing and protecting a vital groundwater resource.

In addition, by providing accessible and well managed open space the Pilot Hill Project will enhance health and well-being opportunities to all of Albany County. This will do nothing but elevate the quality of life of our residents while also providing for recreational opportunities for our visitors. Laramie is a young, youth-driven University town and those students will make up the core of those taking advantage of the many opportunities that Pilot Hill has to offer.

New business recruitment, the development of new tourism and recreation-based industries, as well as overall economic diversification are also important components of Pilot Hill. Not to mention the opportunity to conserve important wildlife habitat!

In closing we would like to thank the State Lands Board for their continued vision and for helping to bring the Pilot Hill Project into fruition. The City of Laramie stands in support and is willing to assist in any way we can to bring this proposal to a successful conclusion.

Sincerely,

Joe Shumway
Mayor and President of Laramie City Council