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May 11, 2020

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

RE: Letter of Support from the City of Laramie Parks, Tree & Recreation Advisory Board for the Pilot Hill State Land Exchange Proposal

Ms. Murkin:

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

Of utmost importance to us is the protection of the Casper Aquifer recharge zone, of which the Pilot Hills 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.

Within the City of Laramie Comprehensive Plan, Chapter 4 - Parks and Recreation and the City of Laramie, Parks & Recreation Master Plan it is documented how much we value open space and recreational opportunities. Recreational opportunities contribute to the health of our residents, provide for a variety of educational activities for all ages, and preserve and enhance the quality and integrity of our natural environment.

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 citizens and 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 Project and are identified within Chapter 9 of Laramie's Comprehensive Plan through Strategy 7: Maximize Tourist Expenditure Capture and Strategy 9: Sustainably Grow the Opportunity for the Economic Impact of Outdoor Recreation and Related Tourism. 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 Parks, Tree & Recreation Board stands in support and is willing to assist in any way we can to bring this proposal to a successful conclusion.

Respectfully,

Chairperson, Larry Foianini