

RECEIVED

FEB 22 2018



CDG
ENGINEERS

CDG Engineers Architects Planners, Inc.

2340 Wetlands Drive, Suite 101
Sheridan, Wyoming 82801
T. 307 673 1644 F. 307 673 1448

www.cdgengineers.com

February 22, 2018

Sheridan County Commission
224 S. Main Street, Suite 428
Sheridan, WY 82801

RE: REZONING APPLICATION FROM RAMACO CARBON

Dear Sir:

On behalf of CDG Engineers and myself personally, I wish to express support for the rezoning application from RAMACO Carbon to rezone their 114-acre property located north of Sheridan to light industrial (I-2) from agricultural. It appears obvious to me that the Comprehensive Zoning Plan for Sheridan County, completed and approved in 2008-2009, allows for future light industrial use of that area and that the proposed uses RAMACO Carbon describes in their application fits within the definition of light industrial uses in the I-2 category. Furthermore, given the current and historical uses of the surrounding area, an I-2 designation is appropriate. Lastly, I also believe that RAMACO Carbon's commitments to further enhance the recreational opportunities, and to continue to provide access to those opportunities, indicate that RAMACO Carbon's presence in the area will be an overall benefit.

In addition to the rezoning effort, I also applaud RAMACO Carbon for their efforts to bring economic development to our area. Whether you consider our coal resources a blessing or a curse, the fact remains that our abundant coal resource has been, and will continue to be, an economic driver for our community.

Over the years I have seen a number of coal beneficiation and value-added strategies for coal beginning with a pilot coal-drying facility that was operated at the Spring Creek Mine back in the mid-1980's. Since then, our firm has witnessed many technologies from coal-drying to coal-to-liquids to coal gasification, etc., however, the end-result was still a product(s) that were largely destined for use solely in the energy market. They would either reduce usage, displace higher-cost fuels or, in some cases, provide a fuel that didn't exist in a particular area, but the application to markets other than energy really did not exist. Consequently, as energy markets rose or fell, so did the fortunes of the value-added products so that companies and communities continued to see the boom or bust cycles that energy markets have historically experienced.

With the RAMACO Carbon project, that could all change. The potential products from their research, as well as the research itself, could greatly benefit the community from elevating Sheridan to become a research hub to producing products for numerous markets where lighter, stronger components provide enhanced value. Both raise tremendous opportunities which could ultimately reduce the boom or bust cycles we have so often experienced in this area with coal and the energy market.

I believe it is incumbent upon all area public officials to support opportunities such as RAMACO Carbon where our inherent resources can be utilized to create jobs, keep our children from leaving, attract new talent and enhance the tax base. Please support the rezoning application and help to bring a sustainable enterprise to Sheridan. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ronald E. Destefano, P.E.
Vice-President