

Reiss, David

From: Cheryl Gorder <cliffview@q.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2015 3:48 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak Name Change

Our friend gave us your name to contact concerning the name change for Harney Peak. We are not in favor of the proposed change to Hinhan Kaga. People will not use the new name - it will still be referred to as Harney Peak - names we can't remember or pronounce will never follow through. (Check on the name change several years ago of Squaw Peak in Phoenix, AZ to Pieswaka Peak ????) (to honor the first Native American Woman killed in the Gulf War) No one uses the new name, no one remembers the new name - it's still referred to as Squaw Peak even though the maps, signs, etc. say something else.

Many tragic terrible things happened in the past - Harney Peak has been the name for years and should remain. If, however, it is felt it needs to change, it should be a name not favoring either the White Man or the Indians....at our "little" get together today, the name HARMONY PEAK was suggested. I think that is a good choice.

Thanks for considering our input.....

Cheryl Gorder

Reiss, David

From: Mel and Lolly Semmler <melsem@q.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2015 4:34 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Renaming of Harney Peak

I would like to see a harmonious name picked if it is necessary to rename Harney Peak. Why not something like "**Harmony Peak**" to show that we are trying to work together?

Why does it feel that we are against them? Let's work this out to everyone's good.

Lolly Semmler
13085 Timber Lane
Rapid City, SD

Reiss, David

From: beth hickok <beeetha@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2015 5:44 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: name change

I very much approve of the proposed name change for Harney Peak. I believe we are going into a new era of inclusiveness in America and I would like South Dakota to join the rest of the nation in this positive growth and openness to change. Thank you for your time.

Beth Hickok
Custer, SD

Sent from my iPad

Reiss, David

From: Ina Winter <sakura41@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2015 5:48 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Hinhan Kaga Name Proposal

Mr. Reiss:

I am in favor of changing the name of Harney Peak to Hinhan Kaga as suggested by the Oglala Lakota. Change it as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Kristine Ina Winter
12961 Darcy Dr.
Hot Springs, SD 57747

Sent from my iPhone

Reiss, David

From: David Melmer <dave.melmer@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2015 8:16 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Renaming Harney Peak

I would like to my wife's and my names to the proposed new name. It is most appropriate because this is Lakota country, and it may bring us closer together as a community.

--

Peace and justice please.

Reiss, David

From: Laura Star <lstar23@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2015 8:27 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Hinhan Kaga Owl Mountain

Dear David Reiss

I am writing to encourage you to support the movement to remove the dishonorable name of "Harney Peak" and correct a deeply unjust action that occurred when this sacred mountain was stolen from the Lakota people and named after a man who helped in this act.

The name of Hinhan Kaga Owl Mountain is a good one! Let's restore the pride and dignity to this sacred area. Do it if only because it is the right thing to do!

Respectfully,

Laura Star*

8190 S Giffin Lane

Lake Nebagamon, WI 54849

Reiss, David

From: Dianne Greenwald <diannegreenwald@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2015 10:05 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Change the name

Please change the name of Harney peak to any Native choice. Harney murdered nearly 80 Lakota on Blue Water in 1855. Thank you Dianne Greenwald. One who grew up on Blue Creek and lived my childhood under the shadow of wrongs done to Little Thunders people.

Sent from my iPhone

Reiss, David

From: Jean Katus <jean44ka@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2015 10:54 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak Name Change

June 11, 2015

David Reiss and Geographical Name Board,

Though I do not know about the correct phrasing of the Hinhan Kaga name or whether it is properly applied to what is currently known as Harney Peak, I applaud your efforts to preliminarily give the mountain a much more honorable designation than it currently has. I trust you are hearing from many Native Americans, especially Lakota-speaking people, who are well-versed in syntax and usage of their language to rename this sacred place appropriately.

Harney's family members support the change. Why should others invoke "white privilege" to get their way by keeping the Harney name when the family themselves support a Native American renaming of the peak? The tragic events of September 1855 must no longer be glorified. Honor needs to be accorded where it is due: to the indigenous people of our state. Let us hope our entire nation, and particularly citizens of South Dakota, can realize our common humanity among neighbors and see the name change as a constructive effort to right some past wrongs. It is not only a positive and healthy gesture to the Lakota-speaking people but also a mark of truly respecting diversity among us all.

Please continue your support of the name change proposition and see it through the federal process to finalize it. Thank you for your attention to my backing of Hinhan Kaga or other suitable Native American name to replace the Harney Peak name.

Sincerely,

Jean Katus, Rapid City, SD

Reiss, David

From: KAREN FIX <karen.fix@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2015 11:48 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak? NO Hinhan Kaga Paha or Owl Mountain? YES!!

Harney Peak? NO
Hinhan Kaga Paha or Owl Mountain? YES!!

Sent from my iPad

JUN 12 2015

11845 Pleasant Valley Rd
Custer, S. D. 57730

June 2015

S.D. Board of Geographical Names
Dept of Tribal Relations
502 E. Dakota
Pierre, S. D. 57501

To Whom It May Concern:

I do not think we need to change
the name of Harney Peak. It has
been known that for many years,
it is on millions of maps etc that way.
We respect the Natives honoring
of Chief Crazy Horse, ^{etc.} they should do
no less for our Heroes of their time.

Sincerely
Joan Lytle

Ms Joan Lytle
11845 Pleasant Valley Rd
Custer, SD 57730

SD Board on Geographic Names
Dept. of Tribal Relations
302 E. Dakota
Pierre, SD 57501

JUN 1 2015

JUN 12 2015

June 10, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

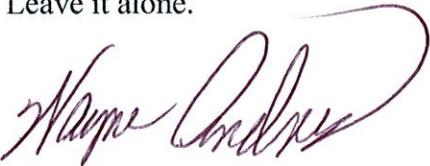
I strongly object to changing the name of Harney Peak!

I am astonished that we react this way when someone says they are offended over the name of a geographic location. If we follow this process to its fruition we would be changing names all over the country, changing our maps, and guess what? When we finished we would have to do it all over again because someone else would be offended.

Let history be history. Harney was no more a bad person than those he fought against. Both sides are guilty of massacre. There is no one alive today that experienced those tragedies and therefore are not personally wounded.

Changing the name of Harney Peak would only cause more resentment and dissension.

Leave it alone.



Wayne Andrews
A resident of Custer.

Reiss, David

From: Jill Evangelista <jillevangelista@goldenwest.net>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2015 3:02 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: RE: Harney Peak name change

To Mr. David Reiss,

I'm not familiar with the name of Hinhan Kaga, is it Sioux language and if so what does it mean? Also how is it pronounced?

As a 65 year young woman I have spent my childhood from 3 - 20 and 35 - 65 thus far in the great state of SD. All of these yrs except for one were spent in the Black Hills.

I knew where Harney Peak was from a very young age as we spent a lot of time up in Custer State Park, at the Zoo, Game Lodge for Mother's Day, Sylvan Lake Stockade Lake, Mount Rushmore, 1880 Train and the list goes on. Harney Peak was always pointed out, but we (my family), never did get to climb it.

With my Jr. High Youth Fellowship group from the United Church of Hot Springs, I finally got to climb Harney Peak when I was in the 7th grade. What an amazing climb it was!

As a lifeguard at Larive Lake Resort for 3 years and 4 years at the world famous Evans Plunge, I heard and talked to tourists from all over the country and the world. I was also a lifeguard in the winter months when Chic Abourezk, owner of Evans Plunge, would come to Hot Springs on most weekends to open up for school field trips and anyone who showed up and wanted to swim.

Most of those field trips were buses from different reservations bringing a majority of Native Americans to swim. We all had a blast and I'm sure they were thrilled to go home and tell their families and their friends about the great time they had at Evans Plunge.

I'm sure that people from all over the world did the same.

I don't have any idea how many field trips included a trip to Harney Peak, but I feel sure it was a part of every person who went to the Black Hills to see it, ask about it, and many who climbed it

When and if the name for Harney Peak changes, as well as the Evans Plunge, they're trying to change it as well. All the people who have been to, seen, participated in, or just read about them, will think they no longer exist. Those wonderful memories will be tainted. Those generations to follow who've heard the stories, perhaps travel to the Black Hills, or write to get information will not understand why they're just gone. Or why they changed their names.

Perhaps politically correct needs to be researched differently and more thoughtfully. I am a Caucasian woman, yet working on the last census, I was politically correct as a white woman. Yet Mexicans were Latin Americans, Indians were Native Americans, blacks were African Americans, the list goes on. Maybe I should be an American, or a Caucasian American, or a ??

I guess what I'm getting at is my name is Jill. It always has been and as far as I know, it always will be.

I want Harney Peak to always be that. If I ever heard who it was named after, or read about him, it never stuck. When I've traveled around the country and talked about Harney Peak it's about an amazing hill that is unbelievably high and beautiful. The view of it and on top of it is incredibly awesome!

Please keep the name Harney Peak.

Thank you sincerely,

Jill E. Evangelista

----- Original message -----

From: ccd21chair@gmail.com

Date: Thu Jun 11 16:10:05 MDT 2015
Subject: Harney Peak name change
To: undisclosed-recipients;;;

Date : Thu Jun 11 16:10:05 MDT 2015
From : Mary Boots(ccd21chair@gmail.com);
To : undisclosed-recipients;;;
Subject : Harney Peak name change

For those of you who would like to comment on the proposed name change of Harney Peak to Hinhan Kaga, I am including here the e-mail address of David Reiss, secretary of the naming board. The deadline for comments is June 15th.

david.reiss@state.sd.us

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Mary Boots
"Proud to be a Democrat"

Reiss, David

From: Rebecca Leas <rrleas@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2015 9:51 AM
To: Reiss, David
Cc: Rebecca Leas
Subject: Hinhan Kaga aka Harney Peak

Dear Sir,

I heartily support the changing of Harney Peak's name based on ethical and philosophical reasoning. I might add that this will also enhance tourist trade to SD. I witnessed the change of Mt. McKinley to Denali in Alaska and it was a totally positive thing! I think it would be wise both economically and ethically to make this change - NOW!

Kindest regards,
Rebecca R. Leas

**Dr. Rebecca R. Leas, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus
Health Education Specialist
Rapid City, SD 57702
605-791-2951**

"It is difficult to get a man to understand something when his salary depends on his not understanding it" --Upton Sinclair

Reiss, David

From: Ruth Hobbs <rmhemail49@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2015 9:55 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Changing the name of Harney Peak

What does Hinhan Kaga mean? What is the driving force for changing the name?

Ruth Hobbs

Reiss, David

From: jkfenenga@reagan.com
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2015 9:55 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

Department of Tribal Relations:

I understand why the Sioux would want to change the name of a peak named for William Selby Harney who defeated the Sioux in the Battle of Ash Hollow. If Harney Peak is to be renamed, Grattan Peak might be as appropriate in honor of the Sioux's massacre of a small US Army detachment in Nebraska Territory that prompted the Ash Hollow battle.

The internet says that the Sioux were forced to give up rights to the Black Hills in exchange for food as a punitive measure for the Battle of the Little Bighorn. That information had no citations prior to 1981. A couple of decades before 1981, I learned South Dakota history from a book that was already a couple of decades old. The older book said that the Sioux gave up rights to the Black Hills in exchange for food after a long hard winter because of a lack of game to hunt.

I hiked the Harney Peak trail several times, avoiding the Jeeps that transported tourists up and down the mountain. That was before it became part of the Black Elk Wilderness Area created in 1980 as a roadless area with minimal disturbance.

To paraphrase Abraham Lincoln: You can call a dog's tail a leg but the dog still has only four legs. You change how history is written. You can change what something is named. But I'll keep hiking up Harney Peak, everyone else can hike wherever they want.

Thank you,
JD Fenenga

Reiss, David

From: David Miller <dvdm4321@rushmore.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2015 10:57 AM
To: Reiss, David

Dear Mr. Reiss,

I like the new name, Hinhan Kaga, that has been suggested for Harney Peak, and I support changing the Peak's name accordingly.

Sincerely,
David Miller

Reiss, David

From: dimeatime58@gmail.com on behalf of tom husband <tomhusband1@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2015 11:16 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney peak rename

Please do not change the name of Harney Peak to "Hinhan Kaga" as the name is very hard to pronounce and means nothing to the great majority of people (including tourists) that would make reference to the mountain. The cost to reprint all maps and references to the mountain is a cost that should not be a burden to the public to satisfy the whims of a few that feel they are offended at the current name. This is not a slam to the native people, it is just good horse sense to keep the name as it is.

Tom Husband
Life long resident of South Dakota and the Black Hills

Reiss, David

From: Kensuz <kensuz5@rap.midco.net>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2015 12:01 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Name change of Harney Peak

I completely agree with the name change. There is a history here of exploitation and dishonesty and this is the least we could do to set this right. I hope this change moves forward. I think it's the right and the moral and the responsible thing to do. Suzan Nolan, 1164 Lookout Lane, Rapid City, SD 57701

Reiss, David

From: Joshua Najacht <custerliving@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2015 12:37 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak name change

I respectfully request that the board keep the name of Harney Peak. I have logical reasoning for this, as well as emotional reasoning.

My main objection to this is the fact that by changing the name, we expect to undue some of the wrongs that have been done to Native Americans. Quite the opposite will be the effect. We will do all of our ancestors a great disservice by the name change, because it will be easier to forget the historical context. If we keep changing names because we are offended by them, we cease to learn from history's lessons. Our children will suffer as a result, and will repeat many of the mistakes that could have been learned from our area's rich history. When we change the name of something because we consider it offensive, we teach our children to be cowards. We should always embrace and learn from our past; our past is what guides us. A society without a past is a society without a soul and without direction.

Another objection is the unnecessary burden on the taxpayers to fund the name change in all of its intricacies. It's easy to make the decision to change the name, but paying the bills for the change will be difficult.

My emotional reasons to keep the name revolve around the fact that I was born here in the Black Hills, and have always known the summit of that mountain as Harney Peak. I have lived in other areas of the country and know that the Black Hills is an exceedingly rare place. Our history, our geography, our people, our climate, our flora and fauna; it's all important and all worthy of protection.

Thank you for your time, and I sincerely hope you take these comments to heart and factor them into your final decision.

Joshua Najacht

Custer, SD

Reiss, David

From: Gardner Gray <gb.gray@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2015 12:58 PM
To: Reiss, David

Dear Mr.Reiss:

I am very much for the name change of Harney Peak to the Sioux designation. It is bad enough that we stole the Hills, massacred the people time and again, stuck them onto reservations and put the so called Shrine of Democracy in the center of the Hills. May we at least try to be a little giving by removing the name of one of the destroyers and replacing that with a much more reverent name?

Thank you,

Gardner Gray
Pringle, SD

Reiss, David

From: don kelley <kim_don2001@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2015 3:16 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak name change

Dear Mr. Reiss,

If ever there was a compelling reason to change the name of a geographic feature, it would be to bury the memory of "Woman-Killer" William Harney, who typified the dehumanizing attitude toward Native Americans during the period of Manifest Destiny.

I've been ashamed to mention his name ever since I learned of this man's brutal record. I can only imagine how much more potent an insult it must be for the Native Americans of South Dakota.

Sincerely,

Don Kelley
12537 Merritt-Estes Rd.
Deadwood, SD 57732

Reiss, David

From: Margaret Nachtigall <margaret@gwtc.net>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2015 3:34 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: harney peak

Please leave the name Harney Peak as is. Very few people know how the name came about. We know it is an historical fact and no matter what the name is we cannot change history.

Lets leave it alone.

Thank you

Margaret Nachtigall
21886 Wicksville Rd
Owanka, SD 57767

Reiss, David

From: Dee Scragg <deescragg@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2015 3:53 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

I am not in favor of the name change.

Sent from my iPad

Reiss, David

From: Loretta Hill <landranch.sd@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2015 5:59 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Renaming Harney Peak

Comments from others regarding Harney Peak Name Change without e-mail access

From: Marilyn Lemaster, 3313 Leland Lane #106, Rapid City, SD 57702

"I think it is totally irresponsible and unnecessary, and, considering the cost to have this done, I think it is unjustifiable and certainly not an expense the taxpayers should have to bear."

Jerry McDow, 3313 Leland Lane #209, Rapid City, SD 57702

"Don't. But if we do, give it a geographical name instead of trying to satisfy any particular group."

Bonnie J. Fox, 3313 Leland Lane #208, Rapid City, SD, 57702

"It makes no sense to change the name, not to mention the costs involved changing etc. -- Let well enough alone, please.

maps,

--

Loretta Hill
landranch.sd@gmail.com

Reiss, David

From: Gary Heezen <gdheezen@midco.net>
Sent: Saturday, June 13, 2015 1:18 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak Name Change

Leave the name alone. If we had given it a native name, they would have thrown a fit.
Donna Heezen

Donna



Reiss, David

From: psides22 <psides22@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 13, 2015 1:48 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

Do not change the name of Harney Peak.its a ridiculous idea!

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

Reiss, David

From: ade1008@gwtc.net
Sent: Saturday, June 13, 2015 8:21 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Name change

I support the name change name change of Harney Peak to Hinhan Kaga.

Ebun Laughing Crow Adelona

Reiss, David

From: Paula Knigge <pmsknigge@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2015 9:47 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: FW: Harney Peak Name Change

I am writing a note to ask your committee to leave the name of Harney Peak as is. Probably some should view the name as a lesson to treat all with more respect. The name of a county has been changed and now it is Harney Peak. Will Sioux Falls be the target?

my opinion, Paula Knigge

Reiss, David

From: Alex Dean <alex@crackpot.org>
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2015 10:38 AM
To: Reiss, David
Cc: Sara Olson Dean
Subject: in support of renaming Harney Peak

Hello David. I'm writing to voice my support for the proposal to rename Harney Peak to Hihnan Kaga.

I am currently a resident of Wessington Springs. I grew up in South Dakota, and hiked up Harney Peak several times while growing up. I was on the peak most recently only about six weeks ago, when I brought a group of co-workers (from all over the United States, Canada, and Australia) to the Black Hills for a work meeting. I love the place, and love sharing it with people.

Reasons I support the change:

- The long history of mis-treatment of Native Americans is well-documented and does not need repeating here. I mention it only to say I think the proposed name change is an important symbolic gesture in the ongoing work of reconciling the white and native communities in South Dakota.
- Since I first heard of this issue a few months ago, I've taken the time to learn a little bit of the history of Gen. Harney. Based on what I've read, I don't think he is a person we should be memorializing.
- I don't think 'Hihnan Kaga' is hard to pronounce or remember. Those who say it is will either adjust or with just continue using the name 'Harney Peak'. Nobody complains about Inyan Kara, so why will this be any different?

Thank you for your work on this issue. I'd never heard of the Board on Geographic Names before this issue came up, but I was impressed to see the schedule of public meetings you've held. I hope this proposed changes is adopted, and I commend you for holding what appears to be an open and democratic process to arrive at this decision.

best regards,

Alex Dean
306 College Ave N
Wessington Springs, SD 57382

Reiss, David

From: Bill Tysdal <btysdal@rap.midco.net>
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2015 12:35 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak name change

SD Board on Geographic Names:

As a life long resident of SD for more than 60 years, I was never aware that Harney Peak was named after a General nor was I aware of his biography. Assuming the biographical data of General Harney is correct, the name probably should be changed. However, I strongly disagree with Mr. Zimmer that the name should be changed to HINHAN KAGA. I am sure he has a very good basis in his 8 page scholarly article for his argument for the name change, but I also believe the name is confusing to South Dakotans as well as potential visitors to the state. With tourism the number 2 industry in the state, the name should have some marketability to states residents and out of state tourists as well.

My proposal is to keep any name change very simple and easily recognizable for people familiar and unfamiliar with the Peak. My suggestion would be a very generic name such as **DAKOTA PEAK**. It is the highest peak in the Dakotas and east of the Rockies. The name is identifiable from Coast to Coast and is consistent with an indigenous origin.

Please do not approve the Hinhan Kaga name. Thank You.

Bill Tysdal
Rapid City, SD



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

Reiss, David

From: L Bruce Nelson <lbrucenelson@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2015 2:16 PM
To: Reiss, David
Cc: seth.tupper@rapidcityjournal.com
Subject: Restoration of Lakota name for Harney Peak

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm a South Dakota native and landowner who would wish to express my support for restoring the original Lakota name of "Hinhan Kaga" to the peak now referred to as Harney Peak.

I recently read Seth Tupper's excellent article in the June 14th edition of the Rapid City Journal and was dismayed to read of Kelly Hepler's letter of opposition to the state Board on Geographic Names. In a quote from Hepler's letter in the article -

"How does one refer to a landmark by a certain name for almost one hundred sixty years," Hepler wrote, "then change it with the stroke of a pen and avoid causing widespread, unnecessary confusion?"

- isn't that precisely what Gouverneur Warren did when he arbitrarily *renamed* the peak in honor of his commanding officer?

I also think the argument that Hinhan Kaga is difficult to pronounce is rather weak. How is "Hinhan" any more difficult phonetically than "Harney"? If anything, the original Lakota name may prompt visitors to further inquire about it and get a better picture of the cultural history of the area. That's a good thing!

My first hike up to "Hinhan Kaga" was a unique and special experience. And one that is certainly more aligned with Lakota spirituality than the name of an Army officer of questionable character.

Respectfully submitted,
L Bruce Nelson
Baltic, South Dakota

Reiss, David

From: John Spangler <jgs437@rap.midco.net>
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2015 3:47 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: renaming Harney Peak

The new name for Harney Peak should NOT reflect either Native American or Caucasian culture alone, but should be a neutral, and universally accepted positive reference.

Some suggestions would be

- 1) Harmony Peak
- 2) Freedom Peak
- 3) Unity Peak

4) or, alternatively, the family name of a member of the Armed services (either male or female - either Native American or Caucasian) who lost their life in service of freedom and our (BOTH Native American and U.S Caucasian) country in any past conflict or war. It would be even more meaningful if this person had been awarded special honors posthumously.

Thank You,
J.G. Spangler MD
Emeritus Professor of Pediatrics, USD School of Medicine

Reiss, David

From: Carol and Roger Herman <cann99@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 14, 2015 5:04 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: harney

Leave history alone