

Reiss, David

From: Linea .Sundstrom <linea.sundstrom@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 9:22 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Hinhan Kaga Pa

Dear Mr. Reiss,

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

Linea Sundstrom
1320 E. Lake Bluff Blvd.
Shorewood, WI 53211

Reiss, David

From: Scott Guffey <guffeyscott@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 9:25 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak Name Change Comments

I am against the proposed name change of Harney Peak to Hinhan Kaga. I was born and raised in Rapid City, where I continue to live and raise my own family. My family enjoy and recreate in the Black Hills, including hiking Harney Peak.

I believe the highest peak in the Black Hills should remain named Harney Peak, it is an historical and cultural name. Numerous peaks, geographical features, and towns are named after military and politically leaders. I'm sure if you look into the background of any these leaders, they probably have done something at one time or another that is offensive to somebody or race of people. Playing revisionist history is a slippery slope and once you rename Harney Peak, what is next anything that is named after General Custer, Sheridan, or Terry?

Reiss, David

From: mksebade@knology.net
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2015 8:20 PM
To: Reiss, David

Please leave Harney as is.

Sent from Windows Mail

Reiss, David

From: Dick Rossum <dickrossum@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 9:50 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

My family and I are all lifelong residents of Rapid City and we are strongly opposed to the renaming of Harney Peak. We ask that it be left as is....good old Harney Peak! Thank You!!

Reiss, David

From: CenturyLink Customer <jetmec66@q.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 9:52 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

If Harney Peak is to be renamed, it should be put to a vote of the people, not a few sitting in a room wanting to appease the Native Americans. Name it something neutral if it has to be renamed. And when will you be renaming Custer State Park? It will be next on the list....

Terry Neuharth

Reiss, David

From: Brian <maldefour@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 9:59 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak naming

Dear Mr. Reiss,

Please accept my opinion of absolute disapproval of the proposed name change for historic Harney Peak.

I see no viable reason to make this change. Please do not change history simply to appease a few squeaky wheels.

I also am offended by the proposed name of our Black Hills peak.

I could claim that the name Sioux Falls offends me and make demands that the state's largest city be renamed to something less offensive. Common sense needs to come into play here.

Reconciliation needs to begin between people and communities and not by renaming historical landmarks.

Again, I absolutely oppose this proposed name change for Harney Peak.

Sincerely,

Brian Malde

Reiss, David

From: PIR Main <pir@rap.midco.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 10:08 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak Renaming

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to the proposed renaming of Harney Peak in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

I am opposed to renaming Harney Peak. It seems political correctness and an attempt to re-write history have taken further seed in South Dakota, as it has elsewhere in our country.

To rename this well-known geographic feature "Hinhan Kaga" would only serve to further divide our population along racial or political lines. I have no special affinity for General Harney or his actions, about which I have read summaries from 150 years ago. If he acted in a brutal fashion while leading some particular military campaigns over a century ago, that is wrong by today's standards. I failed to find any historical records where he was charged, tried, or convicted of wrongdoing or war crimes. That is likely because, in the popular sentiment of the day, his actions were not deemed to be as bad as we see them to be today.

It is unrealistic to return to selected events from the 1800's and attempt to measure and grade them by today's standards and morals. To continue down this path does not serve to heal old wounds, but moreover tears old scars open and perpetuates another cycle of "they did this, so we did that" type of mentality. That rationale is neither fruitful nor healthy in our society. It only serves to continue to divide our population and should be seen for what it is: further attempts to settle old scores, a final revenge of some kind held in the minds of those who feel their ancestors may have been treated badly.

With that state of mind, I suppose I should be petitioning Germany or Russia for the maltreatment of my ancestors which forced them to immigrate from their homeland. Regardless of the similarity of this renaming proposal being originated and pursued by non-residents of South Dakota, my proposal to right wrongs in my ancestors' homelands would be equally out of place. Unless of course I successfully riled up the local populations there and forced them to begin arguing amongst each other, sprouting further divisions – again, about who did what to whom, first- instead of working to live alongside each other peacefully and simply make their communities stronger in the present day.

We accomplish coming together by letting the mistakes of the past be recognized for the follies they were and moving on to make a better tomorrow, not by trying to fix every potential or alleged wrong, especially by some superficial name change on a map. To change the name of Harney Peak, especially to Hinhan Kaga, would be totally meaningless to so many. And I mean that because the vast population will not use that name. It will remain Harney Peak. Some because they don't care, others will continue to call it Harney out of resentment against a forced name change. There you go: you have just perpetuated another cycle of discord and division by undertaking an act that was meant to relieve offense. Such efforts are endless and do not achieve the intended results.

We place people in office who appoint other people to boards and committees. All of these people are supposed to fall into the category of Leaders. How nice it would be if the leaders, the decision

makers, in this matter would not lead with their emotions or by doing something that makes them feel good. Sometimes making decisions involves choices that may not feel right in the face of emotional arguments, but they take into account the long-term best interests of the population and realize that further splintering our society over something that occurred long ago does not ultimately serve the public well. It further divides us and creates additional, unnecessary resentment.

Leave Harney Peak as Harney Peak.

Bryan Schnell
PO Box 8151
Rapid City, SD 57709

Reiss, David

From: John Jarding <jbjarding@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 10:14 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Barney Peak

Mr Reiss's,

Please consider, seriously, the name Harmony Peak as a rename for Harney Peak. With the troubled race-related history linked to the Harney name, a name linking reconciliation and peace within the people of SD is most appropriate. Linking the name change to one race or another only extends the animosity of our people.

Thanks for your consideration in this matter.

John Jarding
Rapid City

Reiss, David

From: Juanita Christianson <juanitac726@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 10:18 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

In my opinion I really feel that the name of Harney Peak needs to stay as it is, it is part of our history. We may not like what happened at that time but again neither party was innocent and we can't change that, we just learn from it. The Native Americans as well as the American Soldiers were brutal to each other, it is like any war people get hurt and killed. We can not go around changing names everytime someone becomes offended of what has happened in the past.

Thank you
Juanita Christianson/Stephenson

juanitac726@gmail.com

Reiss, David

From: George Rankin <gqr1011@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 10:32 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

"Making of Owls"? For Pete's sake get real. Not a single soul that I've talked to wants to change Harney Peak's name and I certainly do not. All who I've talked to agree that this political correctness has gone to the point of being ludicrous and changing the name of Harney Peak to Making of Owls proves that point. Col. Harney lived in in another time and if he can't be called a great warrior then Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse can be called hacks.

Thank You

George Rankin
4914 Copper Hill Ct
Rapid City, SD 57702

Reiss, David

From: dreifenr@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 10:37 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

Greetings,

As a South Dakota resident and one who can see Harney Peak from my living room I believe the name should be left as is. We live in an odd time where everyone is offended by everything and people attempting to placate to that. We cannot begin to change the names of well known areas as someone may be offended by its name when that name is not offensive in itself.

As an example, I understood when Squaw Creek was renamed as the term squaw is accepted as a derogatory term. However Harney, a last name, is not.

Changing non inherently offensive names is a very slippery slope that the State does not want to go down. Just think, General Custer was way more brutal to Natives than Gerneral Harney was. So is the county and city next to change the name? I think not, but this type of action just fuels the fire and gives validity to groups that will waste the tax payers time and money to attempt it.

I appreciate your time and again ask that Harney Peak be left as is. Thank you.
Derrick Reifenrath

Reiss, David

From: Chuck <chckbrsk@rushmore.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 10:47 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney name change

Dear sir:

I am writing to protest the name change to Hinhan Kaga for Harney Peak.

This is ridiculous – the name is almost impossible to pronounce and has no relationship to the peak that I , or anyone else I have spoken with, can figure out.

It certainly doesn't "roll off" the tongue.

I add my voice to rejecting this odd name.

The name Harney Peak should stay as it is!

Chuck Bursack

1637 Boulder St.

Rapid City, SD 57702

Reiss, David

From: Russell Keeton <keetonr@rushmore.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 10:52 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Renaming Harney Peak

Renaming Harney Peak "Hinham Kaga" is racist and ridiculous. I can not believe that any agency remotely connected to this State or this Country is even considering this. If you want to change the name to something that will be factual, just call it peak at elevation of 5885 feet or what ever its elevation is currently. This is not a good move and will do nothing but create more problems. Just leave it alone. History is history and in my opinion the name should not be changed. Maybe we should change the name of the State of South Dakota to the Dennis Sanford state because he is such a great person in his time or change the name of Pierre, South Dakota to Russell Means City ... because Russell was such a great actor and activist. Or Change the City of Sturgis, SD (Because it was named after a soldier Samuel Sturgis) to Chief Red Cloud City. This is so crazy that it could only happen in a State that bends all sense of reality to reflect the current state of political correctness. I completely disagree with the change of names just to make a certain group of people happy. Leave it as it is.

Reiss, David

From: bhwapiti <bhwapiti@centurylink.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 11:22 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Proposed Harney Name change

Mr. Reiss:

I would ask you and the others concerned to leave the name as it is. Please listen to the concerns of the majority of the citizens of our fine state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Larry V. Chilstrom
bhwapiti@centurylink.net

10526 Ashwood Court
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702

Reiss, David

From: Richard Lennon <rclenn@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 12:38 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

My wife and I think the name should remain Harney Peak

Richard & Beverly Lennon
Rapid City, SD

Reiss, David

From: dlostrander@qwestoffice.net
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 1:51 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Name change of Harney Peak to Hinhan Kaga Paha

Good afternoon Mr. Reiss

My name is Dennis L. Ostrander and I am a Marine Corp. Vietnam veteran and a veterinarian who travels to SD as often as possible and I hope to retire there in the near future. I am writing to you in regards to the name change from Harney Peak to the Lakota name Hinhan Kaga Paha. I support this change due to the injustices that Col. Harney did to the Lakota people and because it is a sacred spot used by the Lakota people for worship and ceremony. I thank-you for your time.
Sincerely,Dennis L. Ostrander



Propose New Name or Name Change of Geographic Feature

The South Dakota Board on Geographic Names (SDBGN) is a state commission created in 2009 by SDCL Chapter 1-19C. The SDBGN has adopted a Public Involvement Process which seeks public comment on the existing historic name and offering recommendations and justification for the new name as well as names for unnamed geographic features. The SDBGN follows the United States Board on Geographic Names' principles, policies, and procedures. For further information visit <http://geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/policies.htm>. Any proposed name changes for municipalities, counties or other political subdivisions of the State of South Dakota should be sent directly to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names for consideration.

Proposed Name: Hinhan Kaga Paha

Action Requested:

- Name an unnamed feature
- Change name of existing feature

Reason for requesting name change or proposing a name for unnamed feature:

Hinhan Kaga Paha is more accurate and timeless. Harney Peak reminds us of an era in history where indigenous people experienced a lot of pain. Changing the name is part of the healing process.

Type of Geographic Feature: Peak

Location of Feature (County/Geographic Coordinates):
Pennington County

Descriptive Information of the geographic feature:

Elevation 7,244 ft (2,208 m) NAVD 88[1]
Prominence 2,922 ft (891 m)[2]
Listing South Dakota high point

Meaning or Significance of the proposed name:

Hinhan Kaga Paha is a name that most accurately describes the natural essence of the location. Harney is a person. The natural essence of the land and a person involved in conquests of people who respected the natural essence of the land do not match.

Intended to Commemorate/Honor an Individual Y N
If yes, who?

Are you representing an organization/public entity or acting as an individual? If representing an organization or public entity, please identify the organization and your role.

Individual

Please provide any letters of support for the new name and list any public entities or organizations that have indicated support for the new name below:

Submitted by:

Name: Thomas Penna
Title (if representing organization or public entity): _____
Organization or Public Entity (if applicable): _____
Mailing Address: po box 723, Haleiwa, HI, 96712
Telephone: _____
Email Address: _____

If the recommended name is adopted by the SDBGN, additional information may be needed to support the recommendation to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.

Submit form to:

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

Email: david.reiss@state.sd.us
FAX: 605-773-6592

Website: <http://www.sdbgn.sd.gov/>

Reiss, David

From: Thomas Anthony Penna <tompenna@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 2:19 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: in favor of Hinhan Kaga Paha
Attachments: Hinhan Kaga Paha name change.pdf

I am in favor of changing the name of Harney Peak to Hinhan Kaga Paha. I have attached the form.

Thank you,

Tom

Reiss, David

From: Joanne Goodrich <joannegoodrich38@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 3:14 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: About Harney Peak rename

DO NOT RENAME Harney Peak. You can change all the names of mountains, rivers, creeks if you want but people will still call them by their original name. History cannot be changed, it is a record of a period of time, written by the participants of that time whether others agree or not.



Since it is a cultural thing for some Native Americans, they should call these various places by their preferred name, in their own culture group celebrations, and leave what is part of history to the original given name.

I still cringe remembering the renaming of so many things because Annie B. Talent, who was a fine teacher, offended the Native Americans by being the first white woman/teacher in the Black Hills. Schools were renamed as well as the educator's honor group. I think she should be honored because she was a teacher not reviled because she came to the Black Hills first.

Renaming Harney Peak will cause the same annoyance as well as excessive costs to change names on every imaginable site bearing that name.

AGAIN, you cannot change history by changing a name. If you recall, there is a "nigger creek" in SD and black Americans said, "don't change it. It's just a reminder of times past".

Don't make your group a laughing stock by trying to please everyone or none or partial. Leave Harney Peak and other names in SD alone.

Joanne Goodrich
1250 Silverbrook Lane, Spearfish, SD
605-584-3145

Reiss, David

From: Phyllis Lyndoe <74izzy@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 3:21 PM
To: Reiss, David
Cc: Phyllis Lyndoe
Subject: Renaming of Harney Peak - Comments

My first comment is -- The South Dakota Board on Geographic Names is under the Department of Tribal Relations????? This really gives the perception that this is in no way open for genuine input from the public. For heaven's sake, obviously the mission of the Department of Tribal relations is slanted to the side of Native Americans and what they would like to see.

My second comment - I am strongly opposed to changing the name. It just makes no sense to start changing names of sites just because one (small) group of people is opposed. This again seems like those who yell the most get their way. All of a sudden this is the politically correct agenda again going crazy! Why do we try to change history. Again I am strongly opposed to changing the name.

Reiss, David

From: P Lyndoe <plyndoe74@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 3:25 PM
To: Reiss, David
Cc: P Lyndoe
Subject: Comment on name change for Harney Peak

I am strongly opposed to changing the name of Harney Peak. Leave the name as is. A small group of vocal people should not be able to change the name of a national site.

Reiss, David

From: Robert Jesso <rjesso@rap.midco.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 4:00 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak comment

To whom it may concern..

I believe Harney Peak should remain Harney Peak, it has been so known for many, many years and by untold thousands of people..

The seemingly forward march of political correctness has reached a point in our society where it becomes completely inane...

Sincerely,

Robert J. Jesso
5549 Doubletree Road
Rapid city, SD 57702

Reiss, David

From: Beth Brettschneider <cactusflowerphotography@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 4:19 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Renaming of Harney Peak

Mr. Reiss,

I understand the reasoning behind wanting to change Harney Peak's name but is it really necessary? I can understand the point behind wanting to make it "possibly traditionally and politically correct" but why fix something that isn't broken? Having prior experience in the tourism business many people have a hard enough time pronouncing some of the words we use for tourist attractions anyways such as "paha sapa" "tatanka" and other Lakota words. Let's not make it any more difficult on them. I grew up in SD and had quite a bit of exposure to the Lakota language but even I have a hard time pronouncing it. Please don't make things more difficult than they need to be.

Thank you,
Beth Brettschneider

Reiss, David

From: David Soul <david@davidsoul.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 6:32 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Black Elk Peak

South Dakota Board On Geographical Names
Department of Tribal Relations
302 East Dakota
Pierre, SD 57501

Attention: David Reiss

Dear Mr. Reiss,

It is my distinct honor to weigh in with my support to change the name of 'Harney Peak' in the Black Hills to the more aptly fitting 'Black Elk Peak'. I had the privilege of knowing Black Elk's grandson, Wallace Black Elk, quite well while growing up in South Dakota. By renaming the mountain to Black Elk Peak, we heal old wounds and strengthen race relations.

Black Elk was a renowned Native American, second cousin to Crazy Horse, and a survivor of Wounded Knee. His name alone represents the enduring spirit of the sacred Black Hills of South Dakota. I urge you to consider renaming Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak and I look forward to celebrating this long-overdue change.

Sincerely,

David Soul
Actor, Producer, Musician



“I did not know then how much was ended. I can see that something else died there in the bloody mud and was buried in the blizzard. A people’s dream died there. It was a beautiful dream.” —Black Elk, Black Elk Speaks

Reiss, David

From: nimbly <windwalker@frontiernet.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 7:02 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Name change of Harney Peak

I totally support name change to Making.of Owls and eliminating the present name of Harney Peak. This honors the sacredness of this land and reaches back beyond the brutal murders of innocents attributed to the present name.

It is an honorable opportunity that you have before you. Please consider carefully your choice to set a precedent of peaceful integrity.

Thank you,
Suzanne Schmidt

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S® 6, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

Reiss, David

From: COJAK2deej@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 7:06 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak rename

Dear Mr. Reiss,

I am a friend of Basil Braveheart and I support the name change of Harney Peak to Hinhan Kaga Paha (or its equivalent translation). I believe Harney Peak to be derogatory and therefor in violation of your naming guidelines.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dennis McKinney