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 [STERN.CO](http://STERN.CO)

January 14, 2022

Lawrence County Commissioners  
90 Sherman Street  
Deadwood, SD 57732

RE: Wharf Permit Expansion

Dear Commissioners:

My name is Scott Stern and I am the President of STERN Co. Our corporate office is located in Freeman, SD but we own a distribution facility in Box Elder, SD and also have business interests in Whitewood, SD and other property in the Blacks Hills area.

Our company has been in business for 46 years and we have had a business relationship with the Wharf Mining operation for approximately 10 years. We have 95 overall employees of which 16 are based in the Black Hills market area.

The Wharf mining enterprise has been a valued customer of ours during this period of time. Their business helps to support not only the employees of our company but their families as well. Their corporate culture initiatives support them to operate in a safe, environmentally conscious capacity that cares about the health and well-being of their employees and the greater community where they operate. Their operation is simply best in class.

Wharf plays a major role in the success of businesses that serve them. The Black Hills area and the greater state of South Dakota are fortunate to have a quality corporate citizen like Wharf and their mining operation in this region. We at Stern fully support the expansion of Wharf mining operations and mine life extension and sincerely hope you will support their expansion as well. If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Scott Stern', written over a horizontal line.

Scott Stern,  
President, STERN Co.