



Department of Transportation

Office of the Secretary

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June 12, 2009

Representative Deb Peters, Chair
Government Operations and Audit Committee
c/o Department of Legislative Audits
427 South Chapelle
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Representative Peters:

Thank you for your June 3rd letter inquiry regarding the Department's practice of allowing interested organizations to utilize the interstate rest areas for purposes of promoting their organizations and greeting interstate travelers in South Dakota. As you are probably already aware, the Department will be continuing this program.

The Department received a significant amount of feedback from the organizations utilizing the program, tourist groups, and other concerned citizens. The information received emphasized the importance of the program to both travelers and the organizations themselves.

As a result of the information we received, the Department decided to continue the existing program at its interstate rest areas. The Department will be providing notice of this decision by letter to those organizations who have utilized the program in the past. The Department will continue to manage the program in a way that protects the primary purpose of the interstate rest areas, minimizes the maintenance needs, and ensures the safety of travelers and rest area visitors.

Please let me know if you need additional information regarding this issue.

Sincerely,

Darin P. Bergquist
Secretary