



South Dakota Campground Owners Association (SDCOA)

www.SouthDakotaCampgroundOwnersAssociation.org

www.CampSDakota.com

info@CampSDakota.com

(605) 593-1557

PO Box 824, Pierre SD 57501

April 2, 2019

Sturgis City Council Members

Dear Council Members,

As the state's professional trade association for campgrounds owners, we're in opposition to the Sturgis City plan to impose fees on campgrounds for ambulance services.

In his statement, Edward Miller, owner of Rush No More RV Resort & Campground, presented many facts representing how this would unfairly impose fees on selected property owners. We agree with his words, especially, "This proposal is arbitrary and capricious. ... Campground owners should not be singled out for a service that universally covers all citizens in the same community."

The issue of creating Fire and Ambulance Protection Zones has been put before the voters. Let that stand. Your desire to attach your community's obligation of ambulance service to 30 privately owned campground owners expresses a strong bias against this class of business. I can't believe you really want to do that. As Mr. Miller expressed, "Without the Rally, many of these Campgrounds would not exist. Without the Campgrounds, the Rally would be much smaller and much less profitable for the City."

As with hotels, campground guests don't coordinate emergency calls with staff. If a camper gets injured they reach for their cell phone and dial 911. These owners have no control over this process and shouldn't be held liable for it.

We also agree that transparency is required and that the conversation should also take place during a time when seasonal business owners have returned to the area.

We feel this fee has not been clearly evaluated. Therefore, we encourage you to reject the proposal of ambulance service fees being assessed against campgrounds.

Respectfully,

Mary Arlington, CPO / OHC
Executive Director