

RESOLUTION NO. __

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE BEAR LODGE PROJECT

WHEREAS, mining is one of Wyoming's and America's basic industries and essential to meet the consumptive needs of our families, communities, state and nation, and

WHEREAS, the Bull Hill critical rare earths deposit, located in the Bear Lodge Mountains, has been identified as one of the most important non-Chinese deposits in the World and has been determined to be a vital piece of the restoration of America's critical minerals supply chain, and

WHEREAS, the proposed Bull Hill Mine near Sundance, and the proposed hydrometallurgy plant near Upton, known as the Bear Lodge Project, will operate under the scrutiny of state and federal regulators and must meet or exceed state and federal environmental and safety standards to ensure its operations are non-polluting and safe, and

WHEREAS, Rare Element Resources will be a conscientious and understanding corporate neighbor, hiring many local individuals and firms and making significant financial contributions to local charitable, conservation, educational and service organizations, and

WHEREAS, construction of the Bear Lodge Project will create approximately 225 jobs in Crook and Weston Counties, and during operations will produce 159 highly skilled jobs as the first producer of critical rare earth elements outside of China, and

WHEREAS, the economic base of Northeast Wyoming will be expanded and improved by the development of the Bear Lodge Project, boosting the local tax base and providing family-wage jobs for many decades, and

WHEREAS, the equipment, payroll and severance tax dollars will benefit Northeastern Wyoming counties and the region by retaining and improving our retail, service, medical, utility, city, county and teaching jobs, and will help meet the needs of area churches, volunteer ambulance and firefighting entities, and help support a myriad of other beneficial civic and social non-profit groups, and

WHEREAS, the retention and improvement of these jobs, services, and philanthropic organizations are critical to the health of the small businesses of Northeastern Wyoming, and

WHEREAS, Rare Element Resources has an open door policy that includes public updates and tours to showcase its pride in their environmentally and socially sound endeavors.

IT IS RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF GILLETTE, WYOMING:

The City of Gillette is in support of Rare Element Resources and the Bear Lodge Project and encourages all Federal agencies to consider the urgency and geostrategic importance of bringing this vital project into production without further delay, identifying and concurrently implementing all possible means to accelerate and streamline the activities they are required to perform under the National Environmental Policy Act.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2014.

John Opseth, Mayor

(S E A L)

ATTEST:

Karlene Abelseth, City Clerk