

South Dakota Ellsworth Development Authority Appointed

PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Mike Rounds today announced the appointment of seven members to the South Dakota Ellsworth Development Authority, which was created to help secure the future of the Air Force base near Rapid City.

“South Dakota has an important role in working with local communities to prepare for additional growth in missions at Ellsworth Air Force Base,” Gov. Rounds said. “This Authority will provide an important mechanism to deal with that growth. Ellsworth’s current and future economic impact benefits the entire state and is something we cannot afford to lose.”

The Authority was created by HB1301, which was passed by the 2009 Legislature and became law July 1.

Appointed by the Governor to serve on the Ellsworth Development Authority are:

- Jeffery Erickson, Sioux Falls
- Gary Grittner, Fort Pierre
- Mark Johnston, Sioux Falls
- Glen Kane, Rapid City
- Stanley Porch, Wanblee
- Bruce Rampelberg, Rapid City
- Mark Roby, Watertown.

Gov. Rounds has designated Bruce Rampelberg to chair the Authority.

Lt. Gov. Dennis Daugaard, who was instrumental in helping with creation of the Ellsworth Development Authority, said state economic development officials have worked since 2007 to foster compatible development around the air base. The new Authority is an extension of those efforts, he said.

“The role of the Authority is to work hand in hand with local governments, the private sector and property owners to promote the health and safety of those living or working near the base,” Daugaard said. “The seven-member board will strive to assure that South Dakota continues to be a great place for the Air Force to conduct its national defense mission at Ellsworth Air Force Base.”

A 2006 South Dakota Department of Labor study estimated Ellsworth’s annual economic impact on the state at more than \$324 million.