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Brazeau County Opposes Bighorn Country Tourism Proposal

BRAZEAU COUNTY, November 29, 2018 — Brazeau County Council is opposed to the Bighorn Country Tourism Proposal announced by the Alberta government on November 23rd, 2018.

At its Council meeting November 26th, Council passed the following motion: “Moved by M. Gressler that Council oppose the Bighorn Country Tourism proposal as presented by the Minister.”

“The proposed Bighorn region would stretch eastwards from Banff National Park to Drayton Valley and includes most of Brazeau County, and as such, our residents and businesses will be adversely affected by this proposal,” says Reeve Bart Guyon. “We have serious concerns about the effects of this proposal on the oil & gas, forestry, agricultural, and gravel extraction sectors, which are crucial to the County’s existence.”

A lack of details from the provincial government about economic opportunities the Bighorn region may provide Brazeau County residents is also cause for concern. The County has concerns about mineral leases, development approvals, and other issues raised by the initial proposal.

“As one of the regions hit the hardest by the economic downturn, we cannot afford any reduction to the industries that are our economic engines, nor can we have any uncertainty about future opportunities for development and investment,” Guyon says. “We also oppose any other initiative that may impact our local economy.”

Council has shared its concerns with the proposal with Drayton Valley-Devon MLA Mark Smith, who has brought them to the Alberta legislature.

The County encourages all residents with concerns about the bighorn Region Tourism Proposal to make their views known to the provincial government via the consultation survey at <https://talkaep.alberta.ca>. The consultation is open until Jan. 31, 2019.