STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

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MARTIN L. GUINDON, CPA
AUDITOR GENERAL

January 3, 2017

Ryan Krogman, Governing Board Chairperson
Vicki Buseth, Finance Officer

Brookings County
520 3rd Street
Brookings, SD 57006

This will confirm our understanding of the services we are to provide Brookings County (County) as of December 31, 2015 and for the year then ended. We will perform a financial and compliance audit of the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the County as of December 31, 2015 and for the year then ended and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements.

The financial statements of the Brookings County Housing and Redevelopment Commission, a component unit of the County, will be audited by other auditors, whose report thereon will be furnished to us. We will make reference to the other auditor's audit of the component unit and our report thereon will be based solely on the report of the other auditors.

Accounting standards generally accepted in the United States of America require the Management's Discussion and Analysis, Budgetary Comparison Schedules, Schedule of Funding Progress, Schedule of County Contributions and the Schedule of County's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) be presented to supplement the County's basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to the County's required supplementary information (RSI) in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. These limited procedures will consist of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We will not express an opinion or provide any form or assurance on the RSI. The following RSI is required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. This RSI will be subjected to certain limited procedures, but will not be audited:

- Management's Discussion and Analysis – omitted
- Budgetary Comparison Schedules
- Schedule of Funding Progress – omitted
- Schedule of County Contributions
- Schedule of the County's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset)

The County has omitted the Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) and the Schedule of Funding Progress that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. Our opinion on the basic financial statements will not be affected by this missing information.

Audit Objectives

The objective of our audit is the expression of our opinions as to whether the County's basic financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and to report on the fairness of the additional information referred to in the first section above when considered in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The objective also includes reporting on:

- Internal controls related to the financial statements and compliance with laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, and other matters, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements, as required by *Government Auditing Standards.*

The reports on internal control and compliance will each include a paragraph that states that the purpose of the report is solely to describe (a) the scope of testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the result of that testing and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or on compliance and (b) that the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering internal control over financial reporting. The reports are intended for the information and use of the audit committee, management, specific legislative or regulatory bodies, federal awarding agencies, and if applicable, pass-through entities and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties. However, because these reports are required by South Dakota Codified Law 4-11-11, they are a matter of public record and their distribution is not limited.

Our audit will be conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our audit will include tests of accounting records and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such our opinions and to render the required reports.

If during the course of our audit we find that we are unable to express unmodified opinions on the fairness of the financial statements for any opinion unit we will notify you of the problems encountered. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit, we will not issue a report as a result of this engagement, but we will bill you at our standard hourly rates for the value of services rendered to date of termination of the engagement.

Management Responsibilities

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair representation of basic financial statements and all accompanying information as well as all representations contained therein. As part of the audit, we will provide guidance with the preparation of your financial statements and related notes. You are responsible for making all management decisions and performing all management functions relating to the financial statements and related notes and for accepting full responsibility for such decisions. If applicable, you will be required to acknowledge in the written representation letter our assistance with preparation of the financial statements and that you have reviewed and approved the financial statements and related notes prior to their issuance and have accepted responsibility for them. Further, you are required to designate an individual with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience to oversee any

nonaudit services we may provide and for evaluating the adequacy and results of those services and accepting responsibility for them.

The County has requested that we provide assistance as a nonaudit service in the compiling of the notes to the financial statements. This nonaudit service does not constitute an audit in accordance with Government Auditing Standards as we are simply performing the nonaudit service of compiling the information from your records. You are responsible for making all management decisions and performing all management functions relating to the notes to the financial statements and for accepting full responsibility for such decisions. You will be required to acknowledge in the written representation letter our assistance with the compiling of the notes to the financial statements and that you have reviewed and approved the notes to the financial statements prior to their issuance and have accepted responsibility for them. The County has designated the County Finance Officer as the individual with suitable skills, knowledge and experience to oversee this nonaudit service.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls, including internal controls over compliance, and for evaluating and monitoring ongoing activities, to help ensure that appropriate goals and objectives are met and that there is reasonable assurance that government programs are administered in compliance with compliance requirements. You are also responsible for the selection and application of accounting principles; for the fair presentation in the financial statements of the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information (as applicable) of the County and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles; and for compliance with applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of contracts and agreements.

Management is also responsible for making all financial records and related information available to us and for ensuring that management is reliable and financial information is reliable and properly recorded. You are also responsible for providing us with (1) access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, (2) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit, and (3) unrestricted access to persons within the government from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

Your responsibilities also include identifying significant vendor relationships in which the vendor has responsibility for program compliance and for the accuracy and completeness of that information. Your responsibilities include adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and confirming to us in the written representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

You are responsible for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud, and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud or illegal acts affecting the government involving (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud or illegal acts could have a material effect on the financial statements. Your responsibilities include informing us of your knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the government received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the entity complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants.

You are also responsible for the preparation of the other supplementary information, which we have been engaged to report on, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. You agree to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains and indicates that we have reported on the supplementary information. You also agree to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the supplementary information that includes our

report thereon or make the audited financial statements readily available to users of the supplementary information no later than the date the supplementary information is issued with our report thereon. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the written representation letter that (a) you are responsible for presentation of the supplementary information in accordance with GAAP; (b) that you believe the supplementary information, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with GAAP; (c) that the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (d) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the supplementary information.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining a process for tracking the status of audit findings and recommendations. Management is also responsible for identifying for us previous financial audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or other studies related to the objectives discussed in the Audit Objectives section of this letter. This responsibility includes relaying to us corrective actions taken to address significant findings and recommendations resulting from those audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or studies. You are also responsible for providing management's views on our current findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as your planned corrective actions, for the report, and for the timing and format for providing that information.

Management will coordinate with our office to ensure that the Department of Legislative Audit's (DLA) independence is not impaired by hiring former or current DLA manager or professional employees in a key position, as defined in the AICPA *Code of Profession Conduct*, which would cause a violation of the AICPA *Code of Professional Conduct* or other applicable independence rules. Any employment opportunities with the County for a former or current DLA manager or professional employee should be discussed with the Auditor General or Local Government Audit Manager before entering into substantive employment conversations with the former or current DLA manager or professional employee.

Audit Procedures - General

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Accordingly, our audit will involve judgment about the number of transactions to be examined and the areas to be tested. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable rather than absolute assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the entity or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the entity. Because the determination of abuse is subjective, *Government Auditing Standards* do not expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting abuse.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, combined with the inherent limitations of internal control, and because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, there is a risk that material misstatements or noncompliance may exist and not be detected by us, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*. In addition, an audit is not designed to detect immaterial misstatements or violations of laws or governmental regulations that do not have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, we will inform the appropriate level of management and the appropriate law enforcement officials of any violations of laws or regulations and any fraud or illegal acts that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential. We will include such matters in the reports required by *Government Auditing Standards*. We will also inform the appropriate level of management of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential, and of any material abuse that comes to our attention. Our responsibility as

auditors are limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

Our procedures will include tests of documentary evidence supporting the transactions recorded in the accounts, and may include tests of the physical existence of inventories, and direct confirmation of receivables and certain other assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected individuals, funding sources, creditors, and financial institutions. We will request written representations from your attorneys as part of the engagement, and they may bill you for responding to this inquiry. At the conclusion of our audit, we will require certain written representations from you about the financial statements and related matters.

Audit Procedures – Internal Controls

Our audit will include obtaining an understanding of the entity and its environment, including internal control, sufficient to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and to design the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures. Tests of controls may be performed to test the effectiveness of certain controls that we consider relevant to preventing and detecting errors and fraud that are material to the financial statements and to preventing and detecting misstatements resulting from illegal acts and other noncompliance matters that have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. Our tests, if performed, will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on internal control and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

An audit is not designed to provide assurance on the effectiveness of internal control or to identify all significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. However, we will communicate to you of any matters involving internal control and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies under standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. A material weakness is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance. We will also inform you of any other matters involving internal controls, if any, as required by *Government Auditing Standards*.

Audit Procedures - Compliance

Compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, agreements and other matters applicable to the County is the responsibility of management. As part of obtaining reasonable, but not absolute, assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of County's compliance with certain provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements and other matters. However, the objective of those procedures will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance with such provisions, and we will not express such an opinion in our report issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

Audit Administration, Fees, and Other

Our fee for these services will be based on the time actually spent at our standard hourly rate is determined in accordance with state statute (Fiscal Year 2016 rate is $63.50) and is subject to change each July 1st. We will not bill you for travel time spent coming to and from your location or for time spent giving assistance or working on other projects while on site at your location.

Government Auditing Standards state that if the Auditor's Report discloses deficiencies in internal control, fraud, illegal acts, violations of provisions of contracts or agreements, or abuse, the entity should provide the views of the responsible officials concerning the findings, conclusions, and

recommendation, as well as planned response. Such response will be included in the audit report. If the County does not respond or chooses not to respond we are required to state this in the audit report.

The audit documentation will be available at the completion of our audit for inspection at our Pierre office by other auditors as well as management of the County during normal working hours. The audit documentation will be retained for a minimum of five years following the date of the audit report.

We understand that your employees will assist us whenever possible and will perform such functions as pulling documents selected by us for testing. If your employees cannot accomplish these tasks when requested, we will perform them and bill for our services at the above hourly rate.

Should unforeseen circumstances arise that would require a significant extension of our auditing procedures, we would discuss with you the specific matters involved before extending our audit scope and incurring additional costs. In such a case, this letter may need to be modified and reissued.

The audit report should be issued in final form, and all required report filings accomplished, estimated to be no later than sixty (60) calendar days from the date of the audit report. Our Local Government Audit Manager is the engagement partner and is responsible for supervising the engagement.

Government Auditing Standards require that our office undergo an external quality control review on a periodic basis. A copy of our latest external quality control review letter will be provided to you upon request and is also publicly available on our website (http://legislativeaudit.sd.gov).

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to you and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of our engagement. If you have any questions please let us know.

If this letter correctly expresses your understanding, please sign both copies where indicated and return one copy to us.

Sincerely,

_____

Jeff Schaefer
Auditor In Charge

Approved:

_____ _____
Governing Board Chairperson Date

_____ _____
Finance Officer Date