A half-cent investment in future

From time to time, I have written about the importance of the infrastructure that carries our voices, and soon our images, to the rest of the world over what will be, eventually, the Information Superhighway. But this time, I want to focus on Rapid City's physical and financial infrastructure.

With the special event on the horizon, the half-cent sales tax vote coming up on Tuesday, it is worthwhile to look at its past accomplishments and its impact on our prospects for the future.

The history of that half-cent sales tax, the bulk of which is paid by visitors, is an unqualified success. With it, Rapid City's Convention Center has become the center of a thriving convention business and a focal point for Rapid City.

The Convention and Visitors Bureau has done an outstanding job of promoting the city to visitors and organizing events that highlight our area's natural beauty and cultural attractions. In turn, this has helped to attract businesses and generate economic growth.

But we cannot rest on our laurels. The world is changing, and we must adapt to keep up. The economic downturn has hit us hard, and we must find new ways to bring in visitors and grow our economy.

The Convention Center is a key asset in our economic development efforts, and it is important that we continue to invest in it. A half-cent sales tax could provide the funds we need to make necessary improvements and upgrades.

In closing, I urge you to vote yes on the half-cent sales tax. It is a small investment that could have a big impact on our future. Let's seize this opportunity to continue the success of our Convention Center and build a brighter future for Rapid City.

George Peabody
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