



**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

**BETWEEN**

**THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**AND**

**THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

**WHEREAS**, Independence Day is the annual commemoration of the birth of the United States of America and the ideals on which the Nation was founded, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness;

**WHEREAS**, in 1776, President John Adams said that Independence Day “ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade...Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more;”

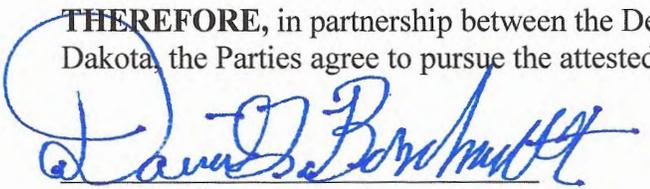
**WHEREAS**, there is a long history of celebrations of American independence at Mount Rushmore National Memorial, including fireworks displays from 1998 to 2009, through cooperation among local agencies, Mount Rushmore Society, State of South Dakota, Department of the Interior, and other Federal Agencies;

**WHEREAS**, these events provide opportunities to celebrate the Nation’s founding fathers, the spirit of democracy, and provide an iconic backdrop for the enjoyment and education of a diverse local, national, and international audience;

**WHEREAS**, the significance of Independence Day holds special meaning at Mount Rushmore National Memorial, where sculpted into granite are the colossal faces of the father of the Nation, the author of the Declaration of Independence, the President who saved the Union, and the President who led that Union into the 20th century and championed conservation; and

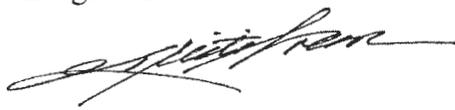
**WHEREAS**, the State of South Dakota and the Department of the Interior have committed to an agreement to exercise their full authorities under State and Federal law to work to return fireworks to Mount Rushmore National Memorial in a safe and responsible manner on July 3, July 4, or July 5, beginning in the year 2020.

**THEREFORE**, in partnership between the Department of the Interior and the State of South Dakota, the Parties agree to pursue the attested by their signatures:



Secretary  
Department of the Interior

Date: **MAY 06 2019**



Governor  
State of South Dakota

Date: **MAY 06 2019**