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Subject: [External Email]
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Mr. Hoelscher,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed exploratory drilling project in Custer County, South Dakota.

I am a property owner in the County and believe this project would have an extremely negative impact on my property as well as those across the area.

At a time when the evidence points to the overwhelming need to better care for our natural environment, I am astonished that this project would even receive consideration. I understand well how these exploratory projects are described in such a way as to attempt to minimize their negative impact. The truth always shows a different, more destructive, outcome.

This project is a major undertaking and will negatively impact roads, water resources, and natural habitat for many years to come. Sadly, this is also just the exploratory phase. What comes after would only multiply these negative consequences exponentially. It is not acceptable to consider moving forward with this first phase thinking that negative consequences can be considered at a later date.

I cannot overstate the negative impact on precious natural resources this project would have. Water resources are finite and fragile. So, too, is the natural beauty and wildlife resources in the Black Hills.

Too often it is believed that there can be a healthy balance between these resources and industry. History always confirms that such a balance is rarely, if ever, achieved. This particular project does not provide even a fragment of public good to justify a conversation about why it should move forward—even in this early stage.

I am not alone in my opposition and have every confidence that the many that oppose this project will be united in exploring every avenue to actively work against this effort going forward.

I respectfully ask that this proposal be denied.

Sincerely,
Michael Purdy

