Date: 20 June 2023

To: United States Department of Agriculture - Forest Service

Subject: Pactola Reservoir-Rapid Creek Watershed Withdrawal #NP-3479

Sirs: I object to the proposed withdrawal of 20,000+ acres in the Black Hills National Forest from mineral development. I am a retired Professional Engineer (WY & CO) that worked in Mineral Industries for over 40 years. I have firsthand knowledge of the existing environmental regulations that protect the public from adverse effects, as projects are reviewed before permits are issued.

This withdrawal action should undergo a NEPA review to examine existing environmental conditions as they are weighed against potential mineral development. Industrial activity exists in the Rapid City area and existing regulations limit negative impact as compared to growing negative recreation, septic, and landfill / sewer impacts.

This proposed action is counter to current policy goals for an energy transition. The minerals needed for that transition will be further outsourced to other countries with lower environmental and labor regulations.

This withdrawal is unnecessary and ill-conceived. I urge you to not withdraw this acreage.

Kenneth Miller, PE (Retired – WY, CO)