

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to strongly oppose the mining and mineral exploration in the Black Hills and Rochford areas.

This is beautiful public lands, and mining would devastate this area. Metal mining is the #1 toxic polluter which is harmful to fish, public health, wildlife, water, and air quality. Mines release harmful substances into the air such as dust and diesel pollution, acidic water making freshwater unsuitable for drinking. In this area is North Rapid creek. This water shed feeds to the Pactola reservoir which is the water resource for Rapid City. This is a direct threat to the water resources in this area.

Public lands are owned by the people not congress. Mining of public lands lock out the use to the public and puts this land at risk which is an irreplaceable resource.

There is an economic impact of mining to land and property owners. We live very close from the proposed mining site. The request for 24-hour mining would devalue our property and investment. The noise and pollutions would create a social, quality of life and health impact for all residence in the area. Core samples are a "foot in the door" strategy for larger mining companies to come in with limited regulation to mill sites, waste storage/ processing and create devastation to the land. There will be devastating impact to the ecosystem of the wildlife and habitat. There must be a study to determine the environmental impact of the area from mining.

State and local government should reflect the will of the people. Citizens deserve to be informed of the proposal and have a chance to voice our concerns. Fast tracking does not allow communities a comment period and does not allow time for meaningful study. In the end the big companies get rich on a public resource and the local people end up with the devastation of their home and pick up the bill to fix the outcome.

I oppose the devastation of beautiful public lands. The direct concern is the water pollution to Rapid creek and disruption of the ecosystem. Once this is in place there is no turning back to fix destruction of the beautiful area.

The people will lose in the end.

Please do not start the process of core samples and mining in the Black Hills area.

Sincerely,

Susan Wiedmeier

