

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/13/2023 7:00:00 AM

First name: Cathy

Last name: Roberts

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello Wendy, I understand there is plans to go ahead with further gold mining in these Black Hills. I can't imagine why this "categorical exclusion" would be happening do we really know the long term effects? there are three huge mining operations already in the Black Hills and I just see the scars getting larger. I ask myself what does this benefit the people of South Dakota? Why on earth do we need to mine these heavy, many times toxic metals from the soil? With all of the changes we're seeing in the world I think we need to really be deliberate and considerate in all of our ideas. Look at the long-term effects. This world is so huge and our activities so far reaching, that we really must look long and hard at the big picture to come to terms with the facts of all of this. These sacred black hills are irreplaceable. For this reason I just am against any further mining operations in South Dakota (especially the black hills until we understand more. We've taken a rush to judgement about these activities and have regretted it. These mining activities leave behind dead zones and I already know that my intuition says the outcome is not going to be good for western South Dakota so again I ask what benefit is this to the residents of South Dakota? Thanks for listening, Cathy Roberts\*redacted\*