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Statement of opposition to Newark project:

As a concerned citizen, I am strongly opposing the Newark project in Custer, SD. The Forest Service's denial of our chance for public comment and their unethical actions in circumventing proper processes and procedures is unacceptable. This has resulted in a violation of the 1868 Treaty rights, and a total lack of consideration for the residents of Custer county, their need for clean water and air, and their economic dependence on tourism, which depends on the natural environment of the Black Hills.

The Forest Service's attempt to circumvent the NEPA process is a blatant disregard for the community's well-being and the environment's health. We demand a full and thorough Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed project's environmental impact through an environmental impact statement and the effects it will have on the surrounding community.

Furthermore, the economic impact of the Newark project must be considered. This project could have negative consequences for local businesses and the tourism industry, which is crucial for the economic development of the region.

It is crucial that the Forest Service reconsider its actions and allow for public comment on this matter. As a community, we have a right to be heard and to have our concerns and opinions considered. We urge the Forest Service to uphold their responsibilities and prioritize the well-being of the environment and the community.

Submitted by: Thomas Geer