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Comments: This letter written in response to the proposed expansion of both the exploration and mining of the Black Hills of South Dakota. I attended the public meeting on the 16th of February at Custer High School. The meeting was presented by the US Forest Service and the spoke person was Mr. Hoelscher. Mr. Hoelscher was poorly prepared to answer most of the questions presented by the concerned citizens that attended meeting. Those representing F3 Gold were not available to enlighten us. Now, we the people ,that are directly affected by F3 Golds Plans are told they have asked the Federal Government for an exemption on any environmental impact study to be done prior to beginning. This act tells more, than any words, F3 Gold can ever share with us. If the Federal Government grants this exemption, it's meaning will be load and clear to where the residence of the Black Hills of South Dakota stand - Alone. The Citizens of this community do not want this project to go forward. We are deeply concerned with the quality and quantity of our delicate water supply, our home values, and the beauty of this environment we call home. So please help us, by being the voice of reason, to stop the Permanent damage of the Hills. Because once the beauty of the Hills is gone, it is gone Forever.