



CUSTER COUNTY

420 Mt. Rushmore Rd.

Custer, SD. 57730

Phone: 605-673-8173

Resolution 2023-07

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CUSTER COUNTY'S CONCERNS
REGARDING MINING EXPLORATION AND LARGE-SCALE MINING OPERATIONS
IN CUSTER COUNTY

WHEREAS, Custer County (the "County") is a legal and political subdivision of the State of South Dakota for which the Board of County Commissioners ("Board") is authorized to act; and

WHEREAS, the land in the County, approximately 994,568 total acres, is under the ownership and/or control of federal, state, local and private parties; and

WHEREAS, the United States and State of South Dakota governments own and/or manage approximately 48% of the land within the County; and

WHEREAS, because of the predominance of federal land in the County, the well-being, health, safety, welfare, economic condition, and culture of the County, its businesses, and its citizens depend on the manner in which these lands and their resources are used and access to these lands; and

WHEREAS, mining exploration activities and large-scale mining operations pose potential significant impacts to Custer County which include, but are not limited to:

- Ground water, watershed, and domestic and public water system quality and quantity;
- Increased traffic on and wear-and-tear to county roads, bridges, and highways;
- Loss of recreational use of the Black Hills National Forest (BHNF) which have significant local citizen enjoyment and tourism impacts;
- Impacts to wildlife habitat and hunting and fishing in Custer County;
- Impacts to the ranching industry by eliminating areas for continued grazing leases on the BHNF;
- Increased noise, dust, and air quality impacts;

- Potential risk of fires;
- Decreased valuations to citizens' property values near such operations; and
- Overall general health and welfare concerns for our citizens and visitors.

WHEREAS, the County is steadfast in its obligation for requiring open government and complete transparency for all governmental entities; thus, earnestly seeking the requirement of full disclosure of all studies (environmental, economic, and otherwise) and the financial viability and responsibility of parties conducting mining exploration activities and large-scale mining operations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Custer County, South Dakota, as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED, due to the potential risks and impacts from mining exploration activities and large-scale mining operations that may impact the land, water supply, and local economy in Custer County, Custer County insists that the USFS and BLM take the proper measures of requiring environmental baseline studies of water quality and quantity, among other environmental assessments and environmental impact studies, before allowing exploratory drilling activities to commence in Custer County.

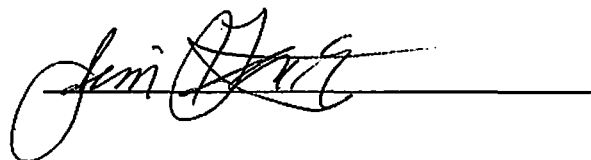
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board supports the continued management of the public lands and the national forests under principles of multiple use and sustained yield, recognizing the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, energy, timber, food, and fiber; however, such uses and management must be tempered to minimize impacts to our County's citizens, environment, and economy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board urges the USFS and BLM to require the following prior to allowing any mining exploratory operations to commence: analysis and disclosure of the impacts of mining exploration and large-scale mining on the well-being, health, safety, welfare, economy, and culture of Custer County, its businesses, and its citizens, as well as including public notice and an opportunity for the public to comment.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board shall submit a copy of this Resolution to the relevant Federal and State agencies and elected officials involved in mining exploration and large-scale mining operations regulation affecting Custer County.

This Resolution shall become effective on the twentieth day after its completed publication.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON this 5th day of April, 2023 at Custer, South Dakota.





Jim Lintz, Chairman
Custer County Commission

ATTEST:

Barbara Cox
Barbara Cox, Deputy Auditor

First Reading: April 5, 2023
Adopted: April 5, 2023 (Number of Votes for: ____; Number of Votes against: ____)

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