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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to voice my concern and say that I am adamantly opposed to allowing any type of mining exploration in the Black Hills.

It seems pretty easy to look at both the past, and the present day proof when it comes to extractive industries and companies to know this is a mistake to allow it to happen here. Look at our own history in the Black Hills to see the destruction this will cause to both land, water and all those who depend on it, both human and animal. Look at the current day experiences of other communities who have said yes to similar operations, and now find themselves with contaminated waterways and sick citizens.

I hope to see the protection of Rapid Creek as the source of drinking water for Rapid City, but also as someone who values the recreational opportunities that the clean waterways in the Black Hills provide. The Black Hills is such a small, and incredibly precious area that has been, and continues to be over developed. We have already experienced the destruction of mining industries, In 150 years of mining in the Black Hills, very few operations concluded without spills, leaks, breakthroughs, or accidents. We still have Superfund Sites that neither EPA, the State, or mining companies have cleaned up. Don't we owe it to ourselves, and the future of this place and it's people to do everything we can to protect it from more destruction in the name of greed? Clean water, air, and soil are worth more than any gold. You can't drink gold.

I know that the exploration company, F3 Gold LLC is using the 1872 Mining Act to claim it has rights to a permit, but then claims it has nothing to do with "Mining." The representative for the exploration company told city officials that exploring for gold and then selling the claims is just a "business model." The representative for the exploration company testified that he is certain they will "intersect" gold, but deny any possible risks to what comes next. We all know what will come next, greedy people willing to take what they want and not care what they leave behind.

Please end this here and now. Please protect the best interest of the citizens of the Black Hills who depend on Rapid Creek for clean water and a healthy life. Please say no to mining exploration. Protect our drinking water, the water we fish and play in, and one of the things that makes Rapid City and the Black Hills so beautiful, Rapid Creek.