Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/19/2023 2:44:54 AM
First name: Oliver
Last name: Stubbs
Organization:
Title:
Comments: The Black Hills are a very special place with a unique beauty and attraction that millions of fellow Americans love to enjoy every year. The residents of South Dakota all cherish the Black Hills as especially do the landowners of this magnificent place. In fact everyone that I know that has had the opportunity to visit here loves it!

Please do not allow this rich and attractive place to become spoiled by large industries that will only take away from the natural, clean, and beautiful Black Hills. If the the Black Hills which benefit from literally millions of people visiting and billions of dollars of revenue are not worth preserving and protecting what place in our country is?

Years of history have proven how harmful large mining operations for gold, lithium, and uranium are and we must not allow this place to be ruined by damage that is not only dangerous to our community but permanent and irreversible. Have personally seen commercial mines where the water and land are so contaminated with chemicals, poisons and or acidic conditions that nothing living can survive. We have a responsibility for the fish, plants, animals, and people that we manage or are associated with and if the wellbeing of this planet or peoples lives are injured there will be bad consequences that we all will have to face. Resources that are essential to life like fresh water, clean air, and a healthy functioning environment are not infinite but finite and must be managed accordingly.

If our waters become contaminated with high levels of cyanide will the mining companies that are responsible for ruining the water be held responsible and required to install water pipes to supply our homes and businesses with drinkable water? If so where would this water come from as much of this region is experiencing drought? If mining companies see that it is profitable here are they going to be able start even more strip mines? How much destruction and mining of the Black Hills is acceptable? Should we stop and consider if the damage, loss, and destruction is greater than the benefit of some out of state or country company making better profits for a year or two? Why has the F3 Gold LLC or Big Rock Exploration been given a "categorical exclusion" to avoid the necessary step of doing a environmental assessment study? Are the lives of our friends and family in this community for no value to the government? Who is taking responsibility when things go wrong and damage is done? Is there any compensation for loss in property values or other injury that occurs such as our livestock getting sick from drinking the water out of the creek? Is damaging peoples businesses, property and/or wellbeing considered a crime?

Please make the choice to do what is right for the citizens of SD, for the great diversity of wildlife, for the native Americans that we lied to, broke our agreements and treaties with, for all the people of the USA and for the world who all love and enjoy the Black Hills.