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Comments: Dear mining companies,

We in the Black Hills of South Dakota do not welcome your arrival. Your promise of jobs and economic growth is nothing but empty rhetoric. We know from experience that your presence will only bring a damaged ecosystem, danger to our water source, and a possible superfund site that will never be fixed.

As Edward Abbey once said, "Growth for the sake of growth is the ideology of the cancer cell." Your pursuit of profit at any cost will only lead to the destruction of our land and the communities that rely on it.

You may argue that you will clean up after yourselves, but we know that such promises are rarely fulfilled. As Abbey wrote, "The propaganda machine is spinning out of control. The corporations and politicians have a vested interest in keeping the public doped up and dumbed down." We know that your interests lie solely in your bottom line, and any talk of "cleaning up" is just another way to justify your destructive presence.

You may argue that your mining operations will bring jobs, but at what cost? As Abbey wrote, "Growth means more bulldozers, more backhoes, more dump trucks, more explosives - more of everything that tears and rends, blasts and scars, gouges and ravages." The jobs you bring will be short-lived and come at the expense of the health and well-being of our community.

We urge you to reconsider your plans and to listen to the voices of those who know this land best. As Abbey wrote, "The idea of wilderness needs no defense, it only needs defenders." We will defend our land, our water, and our communities from your destructive presence.

Alexa