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First name: Danielle
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Comments: Greetings. My name is Danielle Ulrickson. I was born on the Minneluzahan. All along it's banks, folks are scared, depressed and desperate to convince our leaders to join the resistance to exploratory mining and drilling in our sacred Black Hills. We must defend our home like it is our last battle. If this gets ignored, the consequences will be murderous and irreversible.

The only thing that matters is life. Mni Wiconi. Water is life. If we can't defend our children's life, be better be dead from trying. If not, the shame alone will kill us.

There are no successful mining stories in our region's history. The outcomes of heap-leach mining with cyanide and inadequate bonding with no accountability are measured in silly gains, an unsightly pock on the face of the Good Earth, sick and dead wildlife, bad water, and eventually Tera Nulius.

The evidence is seen by looking at the current conditions at and near Edgemont, SD in the Southern Hills, looking at the heartbreaking birth defects on Pine Ridge connected to the in-situ mining and contaminated water. The proof is also seen at the Gilt Edge Mine Superfund Site near Pactola, only miles from where the Jenny Gulch exploratory gold drilling is set to take place. Additionally, we must not forget the ongoing cleanup and spending on previous mining fiascos where we wind up footing the cost once the ore is extracted and the stakeholders pull out and relinquish the responsibility. The billions of dollars we have to spend trying to nurse the environment back to health alone should be deterrent enough. The costs of allowing our resources to be plundered are too high and not worth it.

We cannot drink gold. We cannot rinse off with money. Our kids don't splash and catch frogs in stocks and bonds. The water doesn't belong to us anyways; we are merely borrowing it from our children and their children. Please do not allow our precious resources to be destroyed. Lastly, please let me know if there is anything I can do to help in your efforts to make the health and well-being of future generations your top priority. Thank you.

Warmest regards,

Danielle Ulrickson