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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern:

This is regarding the Pactola Reservoir-Rapid Creek Watershed Withdrawal (#NP-3479).

I would like this to pass.

There is a real risk of polluting our watersheds, and polluting our watersheds is a national security threat that must be prevented. Mining and processing the raw materials it extracts will pollute watersheds with cyanide, arsenic, uranium, mercury, and a host of other toxic "forever" chemicals. As climate change continues to disrupt our society, water will be a resource that our future wars are predicted to occur over. Passing this project will result in the withdrawal of federal mineral rights, meaning that no mining can happen in the proposal area, our watershed will be protected, and it will protect our national security.

Furthermore, there are currently about 100,000 people who depend on the drinking water provided by the Rapid Creek Watershed, both upstream and downstream of the Pactola reservoir. This number is small in comparison to the broader harm nationally and for future generations. It should also be noted that the entire Black Hills are illegally occupied treaty land, therefore any claims to mining rights anywhere in this region were never legitimate in the first place. The Supreme Court also ruled this in 1980. This is the spiritual and ancestral home of the Oceti Sakowin peoples along with nearly two dozen other tribes, and the cultural resources we will lose if these mining projects are allowed to continue can never be recovered.

Please pass this project to withdraw all mineral rights in the Rapid Creek Watershed immediately, and protect our watershed for national security.

Sincerely,

Biagio Arobba