Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/4/2023 12:44:56 AM
First name: Carmen
Last name: Munoz
Organization:
Title:
Comments: To those in support of Newark Exploratory Drilling Project #63527,

My name is Carmen Munoz. I was born and raised in Hot Springs, SD. Growing up, my family was not rich with "things", but we were rich in ways that money couldn't buy. We spent time as a family exploring every corner of the Black Hills. We watched wildlife, searched for animal prints, treasure hunted for crystals, and swam in every pond, lake, river, or drainage ditch we could find. Growing up learning that the land and all that it held were our ancestors, gave me a strong sense of responsibility to care for and respect everything about it. I learned that we should never take what we do not need or cannot use. We do not exploit the land for money, especially at the cost to all of the land and wildlife. I learned from the best, like my Uncle Tim Giago, to never silence yourself when you have a chance to be loud.

I am deeply upset that we would even consider allowing a company to drill for gold in the Black Hills. Not only have no studies been done to verify that the 1000s of gallons of water won't pollute the land and water and kill plants and animals, but you're using a technicalllity to allow an out of state company to come in and destroy our land and ride away with all of the profits. Using an outdated law (that no longer serves the needs of our communities) as an excuse is lazy and cowardly. We demand that the promises made in treaties are upheld, and that this project be completely halted until all affected parties have had their say once a complete environmental impact study has been conducted by an outside party with no affiliations.

This is our land, and South Dakotans do not care about gold. We care about the place we love and we are 100% against this and all future mining that could result in finding gold. The gold belongs to the land, and it should remain there where it poses no risk to our water and wildlife. If this project had not been handled in a secret silent rush, more people would be outraged like I am. Too many people do not even know this is happening. It's your responsibility to make sure it is well known to the public, before important decisions are made. Do the right thing for our communities and for the land that we all live on.

A Concerned Citizen,

Carmen Munoz