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Comments: I am writing in regards to the F3 Gold Newark exploration project occurring in the Black Hills. My grandfather is born and raised in the Black Hills. It has been his dream since he was a young boy to retire there, as he built his very own log house. I have visited since before I could remember, and my most fond memories consist of being in the nature of the Hills. The preservation of the Hills are what make it such a beautiful place that I and the rest of my family consider home. The animals that reside there depend on the peaceful setting as it is their only home. Mining always permanently alters the locations occupied by other wildlife. When their habit is disrupted, it forces them into greater competition for the resources they need to survive. Not to mention the air, water, and soil pollution through the release of toxic chemicals. These processes greatly affect the atmosphere from the emission of carbon, which has a drastic effect of the quality of human health and biodiversity. Our planet that we have a privilege of living in is relied on the connection between wildlife conservation and our environment. While you may think that mining for gold is a temporary, quick fix for your personal gain, mining permanently adds to deforestation, erosion, climate change, and human-wildlife conflict. We as humans need to protect our planet, as it will greatly affect the future of our lives. While you have the privilege of having a home to come back to after work, our wildlife rely on us to protect their one and only home. If you care at all about human health, the safety of our wildlife, and future generations, you will not be driven by selfishness and take action in preserving our land.