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First name: Anon
Last name: Anon
Organization:
Title:
Comments: The economic impacts to the region and negative impact to tourism if mining were to occur are overstated. Wharf has operated in the BH adjacent to Terry Peak for decades. Socioeconomic studies done for Wharf indicate that skiing and recreation is not so much impacted by Wharf (which is visible from Terry Peak) but rather is much more heavily influenced by weather (e.g. snow fall) conditions. Tourism in the Black Hills is not impacted by the existence of Wharf, nor Homestake, nor even Gilt Edge. No one says - oh, there's a superfund site in SD so let's not visit.

The mining industry also pays their employees a living wage. Employees can afford to buy a house and raise a family here. The average mineral industry worker in SD makes $58,340 per year in comparison to the state average of $40,200 (2015 data). Mine jobs are good jobs.

Wharf also provides a variety of support to the local communities, both in dollars and in-kind contributions. This mineral withdrawal study should evaluate the potential lost opportunity for community benefit that having high paying jobs and community donations/contributions would incur.

Mineral severance taxes support local governments and state programs. Mines also pay property taxes to the counties in which they are located, and sales taxes where they buy goods and services.