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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I write this letter in opposition to the proposed drilling in the northern Black Hills. As a lifelong resident, I have spent the past 40 years hiking, biking, skiing and camping in many of these areas. Now I have kids of my own who love to go explore these same areas. I find it unbelievable that we are still relying on a law from the 1870s to manage this proposal. I am gravely concerned about the traffic on the public roads, but even more so concerned about traffic in the drilling areas that haven't been disturbed for decades.

These concerns are dwarfed by concerns of what the drilling and potential future mining will do to the Spearfish Creek watershed. The one thing that is guaranteed about operations like this is the talk about how safe it is going to be. It's safe until something goes wrong, the company declares bankruptcy, and the state/feds/public are left with a mess to clean up. It has happened over and over and over, and it won't be any different this time around. If this were put up for a public vote, it would be overwhelmingly voted down. Its one of the few thing people can agree upon in todays divided society.

Please do not approve this request.