

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/31/2023 1:06:21 PM

First name: Amelia

Last name: Meyer

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Growing up in the Black Hills, I have a deep appreciation for the beauty and access they provide me and my family. We spend most of our free time exploring by bike, hiking, and camping in the Northern Hills. I am very concerned that by allowing mining to expand, not only the beauty of the Hills will be changed or destroyed but also the trails that we access year around!

While working during high school, my job was at a store heavily visited by tourists. In fact, we counted on tourism to keep the store afloat. If the beauty, trails, and access to the Hills are disrupted or destroyed, what would the tourists come to see?? This is greatly concerning as tourism is so important for the economic health of South Dakota. "The tourism industry remains essential to South Dakota's economy, providing an indispensable source of job creation and household income to thousands. 56,826 jobs in South Dakota were supported by the tourism industry, which generated 2.1 billion dollars of income for those families (News.sd.gov)."

Please help protect our Hills by stopping the expansion of mining. Thank you!