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First name: Jessica

Last name: Knutson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Sir/Madam,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed Golden Crest Exploration Drilling project in the Limestone Plateau area of the northern Black Hills. As a resident and current landowner in Lawrence County, South Dakota, I feel compelled to voice my thoughts regarding this project.

First and foremost, I want to emphasize that I am a supporter of mining as an essential industry that plays a crucial role in providing the resources we rely on in this day and age. However, I firmly believe that we should prioritize keeping such work within our state and ensuring that it does not disrupt our local wildlife and ecosystems.

After reviewing the information provided about the project, I am particularly troubled by the clause in the text indicating that the money generated from the project may benefit individuals and entities outside of our area. It is disheartening to think that our resources could be exploited for the profit of others while our own community bears the potential environmental consequences.

I am concerned about the impact this project may have on our wildlife and the overall maintenance of the natural beauty that defines South Dakota. Preserving our environment and the well-being of our local ecosystems should be paramount in any development or exploration efforts.

As a concerned citizen, I believe that public consultations and opportunities for community engagement are essential for projects of this nature. I kindly request that you keep me informed about any upcoming meetings or opportunities where I can voice my concerns and contribute to the discussion. It is vital that stakeholders have a meaningful role in shaping projects that may significantly impact our local environment and communities.

I understand that the U.S. Forest Service is currently evaluating the proposed plan of operations submitted by Solitario Zinc Corp. I urge you to consider the environmental considerations and mitigation measures that have been incorporated into the project plan. It is crucial to strike a balance between economic development and environmental sustainability to ensure the long-term well-being of our region.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I kindly request that you keep me informed of any updates or developments related to the project. I hope that through open dialogue and responsible decision-making, we can find solutions that both support our mining industry and protect the precious natural resources and wildlife of South Dakota.

Sincerely,

Jessica Knutson