

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/5/2023 5:48:25 PM

First name: Carl

Last name: Fritz

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello as a Black Hills resident who lives in the hills just south of Spearfish, SD I am very interested in this project and the harm it can do to our untouched natural landscape.

I completely oppose this project for a number of reasons. My family and I moved to this area over two years specifically the untouched beauty and recreational opportunities that the area provides. My wife and I both work remote jobs and could have moved anywhere, but we choose this area specifically for raising our kids in the outdoors. I am an avid cyclist so I spend part of almost everyday either riding through Spearfish Canyon, going up the many gravel roads including Tinton and Roughlock Falls, as well as countless hours on the mountain bike trails between Spearfish and Roughlock Falls including the Big Hill recreation area.

It is my understanding that this mining project would be located right in the heart of the area that my family and I use on a daily basis. There is no doubt that at best this project would destroy some of this recreation area through test drill sites, creating new roads that cut through these recreation areas, and increasing large equipment traffic on the existing roads. At worst it would turn into a large scale mining operation that would drive away both local and tourists who came to recreate in this area as well as decrease property values and a high potential for destroying a sacred wilderness.

The proposed mining area covers some of the most beautiful natural landscapes in the Black Hills and is a reason that people are moving to Spearfish over Lead/Deadwood. I know if this mining project was operational when we were looking to make our move to Spearfish we would not have ended up in the state of South Dakota at all because this specific area was the biggest draw for our family.

Please do not let this beautiful area be ruined for tens of thousands of people for the potential profit for one out of state corporation. Thank you.