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First name: Cali

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am agave lives in Spearfish since 5 years old. I have grown up and played and learned in the forest south of spearfish and driven up Tinton Road countless times to go cross country skiing, biking, and hiking. To think that Big Hill and the surrounding area or any area in the Black Hills is or could be exploited for mining is devastating. It is the home of so many animals and trees and rare fauna. The land is sacred to the Native Americans and me-not for its rare minerals, but for the presence it carries. It has brought comfort, recreation, and adventure to many. I am concerned that my mental health and the mental health of many in Spearfish will be affected if that land is stripped and taken away. I am also concerned about the potential water contamination that could happen with the drill holes that go down 300 meters. I am concerned the my 5 year old daughter won't have the beautiful Big Hill to go explore as I did in grade school with my classmates, that mining will be all that she sees and knows. I am concerned that this proposed drilling and mining will be more expansive and devastating then we could have ever imagined: Spearfish's backyard in exchange for money. I know gold is necessary for some things to function such as electronics but jewelry is not worth cutting and clearing away virgin land. I am concerned that the lack of diversity that comes with mining and the destruction of foliage and trees leads to a more vulnerable ecosystem in general. Please consider these concerns. Please keep the miners away. Thank you.