

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/7/2023 4:04:46 AM

First name: Holly

Last name: Flynn

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am absolutely opposed to the mining plans proposed by Solitario Zinc Corp. My husband and I moved out to the Black Hills to enjoy the pristine natural landscape. The thought of having an out-of-state corporation come in to the beautiful Spearfish Canyon to pollute her waters, pump the surrounding land full of toxic heavy metals and other dangerous by-products, harvest South Dakota's natural resources, and then leave to go back to their Colorado-based company is absolutely disgusting to me. Our US Forest Service should place an emphasis on protecting the forest and other wild places first and foremost. South Dakota is a rural state that thrives on tourism and marketing her close-to-home hiking trails, fly fishing creeks, and beautiful mountainsides. If we allow mining companies like Solitario Zinc Corp to destroy the gem that is Spearfish Canyon, then the state and the communities of the Black Hills are left to not only suffer loss of income from the decline in tourism that will inevitably follow, but the communities that the mining company will leave behind when they return to their own state will be forced to live with toxic exposure to arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, manganese, mercury, nickel and selenium for decades to come. A new study of U.S. gold mines' operating records reveals that major gold mines surveyed by the United States Geological Survey have spilled contaminants, and 74% polluted water with cyanide, arsenic, nitrates, or other hazardous materials.

As a lifelong South Dakotan, I am completely opposed to an out-of-state company arriving with no accountability, damaging the environment, and leaving our communities with toxic waste that will pollute our water, poison our fish, cattle, and crops, and decrease the value of our tourism industry for decades to come.