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Organization: Alternative Fuel Coffee House

Title:

Comments: Given the incredible reliance, both our local business and the community have on the aquifers in the area, we stand in firm support of the proposed withdrawal of mining activities in the Rapid Creek watershed. Access to safe and potable water not only supports our community, wildlife, and natural spaces, but it ensures a future in which accessible water, in all regards, is a guarantee. Placing the increased burden on small business owners- the backbone of our tourism industry in this state- not only puts these businesses in an unfair position as they are forced to invest more money in regulating and monitoring potentially contaminated water; but it also places a burden on businesses to clean up the environmental mess that mining can and often creates. A withdrawal from mining activities in the Rapid Creek watershed area is a necessary step in securing the future of both our local communities and continual support for a tourism industry that is so heavily reliant on our beautiful Black Hills.