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Comments: I would like to express my opposition to the proposed withdrawal of 20,574 acres in the Black Hills National Forest. Modern hardrock mines are subject to stringent environmental, labor and safety laws and regulations such as the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, and dozens of others. The proposed withdrawal won't provide any benefit, but it will deprive South Dakotans of jobs that pay well above average, and will make our entire nation more dependent on minerals from foreign sources.
Mining can be managed within the current regulatory framework and still have minimal impact to the environment. The US has the best infrastructure to allow for mineral use and protect environmental concerns. We will continue to hand over our own way of life into others control, by not allowing for scientific advancement with mineral extraction and production. Other mining areas in the west are successful and show it can be done. Withdrawing more areas with potential minerals is giving away our future to let other countries control the US. Be mindful as our costs within the US continue to increase as we become more dependent upon others.