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First name: Liz and Harvey

Last name: Fayer

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service,

We are opposed to any drilling in the Black Hills and especially near the canyon. Our lands and water are so important to this area's beauty and draw for tourism. We would rather have tourists than drillers that don't even live here and just want to extract and further damage the hills and exploit the sacred lands of the Oglala Lakota. Others, have damaged and exploited their lands for far too long.

In addition, from what the report states this mine will pull water from aquifers. With all of the building here since Covid, we are already drawing more water out of our aquifers. We live in an area that has droughts - serious droughts such as <https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/5511/drought-in-the-black-hills>

We are opposed to businesses coming from out of state to exploit the natural resources of the hills. stop the drilling all together. What is wrong with us as people that we need to keep extracting resources for something as frivolous as gold. It is short sighted.

Where will all of the toxins go from gold mining - these are well documented:

<https://earthworks.org/issues/environmental-impacts-of-gold-mining/#:~:text=It%20can%20displace%20communities%2C%20contaminate,generates%2020%20tons%20of%20waste.>

Gold mining pollutes water and land with mercury and cyanide, endangering the health of people and ecosystems. Producing gold for one wedding ring alone generates 20 tons of waste.

#### Poisoned Waters

Gold mining can have devastating effects on nearby water resources. Toxic mine waste contains as many as three dozen dangerous chemicals including:

arsenic

lead

mercury

petroleum byproducts

acids

cyanide

It is up to you to protect the Black Hills!

Liz and Harvey Fayer