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Organization:

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Comments: To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to the Golden Crest gold exploration project. As an Indigenous public health professional I see the harmful effects that abuse of water and natural resources has on all communities, especially my Indigenous community. The Black Hills are Oceti Sakowin treaty land, and this project violates their sovereignty and harms their sacred lands. This is especially true considering that tribal consultation was inadequate even though the Forest Service is required to do a full and meaningful tribal consultation.

Additionally, the company estimates that they will use 5,000-10,000 gallons of water per drill hole, per day, all of which will be sourced from municipal water supplies. This project will deplete an already sensitive water supply. It also poses the threat of contaminating groundwater which then forces municipalities to treat contaminated water left over from drilling operations. This is expensive and comes out of taxpayers' money all for the enrichment of companies for the mining of a mineral that isn't critical since most gold mined goes to investment or jewelry.

Best,

Martell Hesketh MPH