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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you in advance for your consideration. There has been no material change in Golden Crest's efforts that would warrant a change of heart for me on this issue since the previous public comment period in June 2023, so I will reiterate my opposition: I am a homeowner in the Black Hills. My family and I live here, together, and we intend to raise future generations here; therefore I am an investor/shareholder/permanent tourist in this beautiful region. In recreation/tourism alone this region earns over \$3Billion/year for the locals, region and state. It is a sustainable industry that benefits not just 12,000+ Spearfish residents but anyone who comes here. As long as we keep it clean, people will come, share, and enjoy. Mining, however, is estimated to spend a comparatively small \$51M in moneys that will go to the state, and at best create 1,100 jobs. It is not sustainable and is not without serious risk to our environment. No one wants an open pit and a subsequent "reclamation effort" afterward that means a company plants grass where there used to be livable land and biodiversity. That is simply not good enough. Having higher bonds is not good enough. Protection against possible bankruptcy of a mine (if the exploration yields something that can be mined) is not good enough. Why will it not ever be good enough right now, or ten years from now? Because you (still) do not have my TRUST. Not only does this project pose a serious risk to water quality in Lawrence County where I live (including nearby Spearfish Creek), it would also disrupt wildlife, add to our worsening air quality issues, and directly interrupt the recreation and tourism industry in our area. One of the drill sites sits directly on one of the most popular mountain bike trails in the Black Hills, and multiple sites are within one quarter-mile of well-known hiking trails. I respectfully request the Forest Service apply the Golden Rule and put a stop to this project: You would never allow this exploration to occur on your block or in your neighborhood for all the aforementioned concerns; so don't allow it in mine, thank you.