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First name: Azalea

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am from Rio Rico and my family owns a home here. I have been a part of this community for my whole life. I think that the addition of a mine in the Patagonia mountains will affect the health and safety of our community. I think that Santa Cruz county is an area with beautiful weather, mountain ranges, nature, trees, and community that has tons of potential to become a thriving, profitable area. I am concerned that if we start mining in the Patagonia mountains, the natural ecology of this area will change and our wildlife and ecosystem will become disrupted and displaced. I think in this time of concern over a changing climate and increasing natural disasters, it would be an extremely ill-considered choice to begin to disturb our mountains. Santa Cruz county is faring well in avoiding fires, extreme heat, extreme storms etc. Disrupting the mountains could potentially have unknown effects on the ecosystem here. Time and time again, it has been shown that we do not know what we do not know. Even if every precaution is taken, there is often a key piece of information missing that could prevent health concerns or ecological disasters. I think instead, we should be investing in growing our economy by investing in schools, small businesses, affordable housing, and community care. Without thinking about the potential effect our actions could have on the future of our community, we will end up in a situation that not only harms the environment, but the economy of our town as a whole.