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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am an Afro-Caribbean-American woman living in Phoenix. I have never been to the Black Hills region. I am not Native American/Indigenous, but am an ally. My partner is Oglala Lakota. My spirit resonates with the fact "Mitakuye Oyás'i?." So I feel compelled to provide this feedback within this context. My partner is Oglala Lakota, born on Pine Ridge Reservation. My spirit resonates with the facts: Mitakuye Oyás'i? and Mni Wichoni. I feel compelled to provide my feedback in support of the withdrawal with reverence to the undeniable truth of these facts.

It is the ethical responsibility of citizens of this planet to resist actions that harm humans and all our relations. It is the responsibility of the US to repair the damage done to historically Native lands and to any surrounding areas that impact the natural homeostasis of the land that has proven time and time again to have adverse health and spiritual impact on Native Americans.

These capitalistic ventures are violations of human rights. The advancement of this country cannot continue to be the result of submitting to the temptations of capitalism and to colonialist notions of eminent domain, which assert ownership over that which should not be owned- and certainly should not exert harm on the health of the earth's inhabitants, and more specifically do more damage to the areas surrounding the Black Hills, where the abomination that is Mount Rushmore looms as a reminder of the atrocities that have been done to the original stewards of the land, to the sacredness of the area, and to Turtle Island. Protecting Mniluzuhan is simply a matter of the acknowledgment of humanity and the sacredness of our interconnection with the earth.

The current push to boost US exports and economy MUST NOT continue to come at the expense of human lives, particularly those this country aimed to snuff out, make invisible, or strip of their voices.

I deeply and sincerely send positive energy to the water protectors, to Deb Haaland, and any others who persist on this journey of restoration and balance.

Marsha Nneka Sargeant, M.S., Ph.D.