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Title:

Comments: I am a professor of American Indian and Indigenous Studies at Cornell University. I support the withdrawal proposal. The Black Hills rightly belong to the Lakota people, for whom it is the heart of their spiritual and material existence. In 1980, the Supreme Court ruled that the U.S. had illegally taken the Hills in 1877, violating the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868, and that the Lakota had a right to monetary compensation for the taking decided by the Court of Claims. The Lakota have refused that compensation for to take it would mean giving up their right to the Black Hills. At the very least, the wishes of the Lakota for the management of the Black Hills should be respected and thus, the withdrawal of mining companies from the Hills should be enforced.