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October 23,2024

The Honorable Deb Haaland

Secretary of the Interior

U.S. Department of the Interior

1849 C Street NW

Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Haaland:

I am writing to express my strong support for the expedited approval of the Withdrawal Proposal to prevent toxic mining in the sacred Black Hills region. The protection of this area is critical not only because of its deep cultural and spiritual significance to the Lakota and other Indigenous peoples but also because of the environmental risks associated with mining operations, which threaten vital water sources.

Water is a fundamental constitutional right for all human beings, and the potential for toxic runoff and contamination from mining operations presents a grave threat to the health of communities, ecosystems, and future generations. The Black Hills are a precious natural resource, and it is our responsibility to protect the purity of its water and the integrity of the land.

I respectfully urge you to prioritize and expedite the withdrawal process to safeguard this sacred region from irreversible damage. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Lien M Schuller