

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/23/2024 9:18:40 PM

First name: Kathy

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I WRITE IN SUPPORT OF Pactola Reservoir-Rapid Creek Watershed Withdrawal #63876.

I WRITE AS A PATRIOT, a retired defense industry test and quality engineer. Our security as a nation depends of the quality of our environment and the equal protection of our citizens.

I WRITE AS A CHAMPION OF JUSTICE, one who was raised in the Jim Crow South. I facilitate courses from Just Faith Ministries in "Faith and Racial Justice; Changing Systems in Structures" and also "The Land Is Not Our Own; Seeking Repair Alongside Indigenous Communities." As a nation, we are only slowly beginning to recognize and consider reparations for our Black populations after the depravations of Slavery and its aftermath. Even more belatedly are we turning attention to or even recognizing the grave injustices and atrocities committed against our Indigenous populations.

I WRITE A HUMAN BEING, one who is concerned about the land and the survival of our species on this earth; one who has learned that this abundant land, teeming with wild life of all kinds and flourishing species of plant life, was not the wild, empty, and untamed land that we have been taught to believe for generations. This land was tended by many peoples, much more numerous than we have been taught, people who governed themselves and interacted with each other and the land in mutually beneficial relationships of reciprocity and respect.

As a PATRIOT, a CHAMPION OF JUSTICE, and a HUMAN BEING, it is my considered opinion that our national security, the demands of justice to Indigenous People, and the survival of human life on this planet are best served at this time, by returning sovereignty over as much land as is feasible to our Indigenous Brothers and Sisters and by deferring to the maximum extent of the law vexing questions of environmental protection.

For all these reasons, I support the Lokota People's Law Project to protect's work to protect a beautiful part of the sacred He Sapa (Black Hills) from toxic mining. In solidarity with the Black Hills Clean Water Alliance, I ask USFS to require mining companies to withdraw from the pristine and sensitive 20,000 acres at the headlands of the Rapid Creek Watershed. I support the Pactola Reservoir-Rapid Creek Watershed Withdrawal #63876.

Thank you for your attention.