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First name: khailaya

Last name: hughes

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Khailaya Hughes and I am writing as a concerned resident and student of the Black Hills region. As someone who is deeply connected to the natural landscapes of this area-both as a place of learning and as a source of peace and inspiration-I am heartbroken by the proposal of the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project.

The Black Hills are more than just a geographic feature! They are a cultural, ecological, and spiritual sanctuary. The thought of industrial drilling invading this sacred and biologically rich environment fills me with sadness. We risk losing something irreplaceable in pursuit of speculative resource extraction: the integrity of the land, the quality of its water, the health of its forests, and the spirit of a place that many consider home.

I am writing to formally request a 60-day extension to the scoping public comment period. The public deserves more time to process the details of this project and express their thoughts about such a significant and irreversible proposal.

I oppose the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project because it represents a threat to the very character of the Black Hills. It endangers fragile ecosystems, risks contaminating clean water sources, and compromises the cultural heritage of Indigenous communities whose connection to this land predates any mineral interest. These concerns must not be brushed aside for the sake of short-term profit.

Furthermore, I urge the Forest Service to require a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project. A project of this magnitude and sensitivity cannot be ethically or scientifically justified with anything less. The potential consequences-ecological, cultural, and emotional-demand a rigorous, transparent, and comprehensive review process.

Please listen to the voices of those who love and respect this land. Once it is gone, it cannot be restored.