Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/16/2025 1:04:04 AM First name: Shodo Last name: Spring Organization: Title:

Comments: I oppose the proposed drilling in the sacred land known as Pe'Sla.

Others will give facts and figures about the environmental damage, harm to nearby communities, why this is not needed, and so forth.

I am simply here to say no on moral grounds.

This country claims to respect freedom of religion, yet again and again it approves destroying sacred sites of every religion except Christian (and sometimes Christian too, as in Palestine). This country claims the right to destroy anything it want. I tell you, you are destroying yourselves. The capitalist, greedy core of this society is a poison that will destroy itself soon - but not soon enough to protect the earth which has been friendly host to humans for millennia.

Stop desecrating other people's sacred places. By any morality from any people, you should not be drilling here. The thought of drilling comes from a frozen heart and an insatiable greed, that want to turn every worthwhile thing, every place of beauty, into dollar bills.

I grew up in a place that was beautiful, not with the wild beauty of this place, but an ordinary beauty of trees, fields, and sky. As I grew up, the woods where we had played were replaced, bit by bit, with suburban houses and green lawns. Eventually the blackberry fields were replaced by a development, and there was nowhere to dream. I hadn't known, then, to call them holy, but I felt it. There were still parks and reservations, forest lands, protected places, and a few of them were labeled sacred after long legal battles.

But you keep chipping away at them, influenced by money or threats, giving up what is holy for the sake of profit. Stop! Repent! Belong to the earth again.

Someone, reading this, will call me silly. But nature is bigger than you are; we all are a part of the natural world. Humans are the only animal that fouls its own nest. Stop.