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First name: Amanda

Last name: Granberg

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern at Pete Lien & Sons and the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources,

I am writing to firmly oppose the proposed Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project (#67838) by Pete Lien & Sons.

This project is not only an environmental threat-it is a moral, legal, and spiritual trespass on lands that rightfully belong to the Lakota, Dakota, and other First Nations peoples. The Black Hills, including the area surrounding Rochford, are sacred. They were promised in perpetuity to the Oceti Sakowin under the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty. To permit further drilling here is to willfully violate these treaty agreements-violations which are unconstitutional, unethical, and unjust.

Beyond the legal implications, this project threatens to degrade irreplaceable ecosystems, contaminate clean drinking water, and disrupt the delicate balance of native habitats. The potential environmental harm caused by exploratory drilling cannot be justified. The water systems that run through this land support not only wildlife and plant species, but communities who have lived here in deep relationship with the Earth for generations.

I urge you to listen to the voices of Indigenous leaders and community members who have spoken clearly: these lands must be protected-not exploited. Any decision to proceed with this project would not only ignore legal treaty obligations, but would also represent a profound disrespect for Indigenous sovereignty and the inherent rights of future generations to clean water, healthy ecosystems, and cultural continuity.

I stand in solidarity with the defenders of the Black Hills, and I call on you to withdraw this proposal and seek paths that respect Indigenous sovereignty, protect our shared environment, and honor the treaties that remain in full legal force.

Sincerely,  
Amanda Granberg