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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Aloha mai kakou (greetings all),

As a Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian) supporter of the Lakota, I stand in firm solidarity with them, strongly opposing the proposed exploratory drilling near Pe' Sla in the ?e Sápa.

Pe' Sla is a sacred place - deeply woven into the stories, ceremonies, and responsibilities that continue to shape Lakota life today. From what I have learned through Lakota voices, culture keepers, and organizers, including NDN Collective, Pe' Sla is the center of the sacred circle, a "holy of holies"- much like the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican and the Kaaba in Mecca for Catholic and Muslim worshippers.

For the Lakota, Pe' Sla holds meaning in ceremony, cosmology, sovereignty, prayer, and the continuity of life itself. That meaning is not frozen in the past; it is alive today, carried by the Lakota people who continue to care for it with profound, steadfast reverence. The proposed drilling - bringing widespread destruction of land, water, and life - would cause harm beyond measure that can never be undone.

In my own culture, we speak of aloha ?aina (love and loyalty to land and our people), of kuleana (responsibilities and standing that we are born with and grow into), and of choosing pono (to hold stances and take actions that create harmony and cohesion). These values guide how we care for our own sacred places, and I see the same being lived by our Lakota relatives who continue to protect Pe' Sla with courage and clarity. Their words have shaped my understanding. Their leadership guides this response.

I urge the U.S. Forest Service to deny the drilling proposal and to recognize Pe' Sla as a place that should remain untouched - not only out of cultural respect, but because it is the right and just thing to do. I also strongly support calls to extend the public comment period, to allow more time for thoughtful engagement and voices to be heard - especially from those with the deepest connections to this land.

We each have kuleana (responsibility) in this moment. Mine is simply to add my voice in support of those who have already spoken with great wisdom, to affirm that sacred places like Pe' Sla must be protected - now and always.

Me ka ha?aha?a a me ka ?oia?i?o (with humility and sincerity),

Kehaunani Abad