Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/11/2025 6:20:17 AM First name: Grayson Last name: Caricofe Organization: SDSMT Student Chapter - Society of Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration Title: President Comments: In addition to my previous comment, I would like to point out that many of the claims made against the project are highly emotional, unscientific, based on disputed historical narratives, provide little to no evidence, or simply false.

It would be socially, economically, and culturally disastrous to allow a single group to prevent the use of land on the basis of their own personal beliefs while the land is also occupied by many other individuals with their own religious and historical beliefs.

Matters as important as the economic livelihoods of Black Hills locals and national industry should not be jeopardized by unfounded claims about the "pristine" or "sacred" status of the land. Especially while it is proven that the project can occur without causing damage to the land. Additionally, the project should not be denied based on the opinions of tourists and hobbyists who view the Black Hills as a recreation space rather than a place where people live and must support themselves with its resources to continue living there.

No living thing can exist without disturbing its environment in some manner, nor can our civilization be maintained without the extraction of inorganic resources. To believe so is unscientific and absurd.

I highly urge that this project be allowed to continue for as long as it remains safe, legal, and environmentally sustainable.