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Comments: To whom it may concern,

I know that I cannot change the minds of those who have decided that capital or their own traditions are more important than others', but let me say this: mining on any ancient, sacred indigenous site is not only an invitation for criticism and pushback, it is morally and ethically offensive. I implore the decisionmakers to find the humanity within themselves and consider what it would be like for a mining operation to excavate and rip apart the site of Jesus' tomb, or the

Sistine chapel, or Plymouth Rock, or the Vikings stadium, or any other site of cultural significance to you. I'm not an expert, but there is a lot of land in the Dakotas, and at least some of it must be of a similar geological composition. The indigenous people of this country have lost so much to the hand of the government; my state of Illinois is a prime example of that. We have no reservations at all, little mainstream Native culture, and few protected Native historical sites compared to South Dakota. Don't let your beautiful state do to your indigenous folks what my state did to ours.