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First name: Jessica

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I am writing as someone who deeply cares about the Black Hills and the unique cultural, environmental, and spiritual significance they hold. This sacred region is not only a stunning natural landscape but also a vital part of Lakota heritage and an irreplaceable ecosystem that must be protected for future generations.

I am requesting that the public comment period for the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project #67838 be extended by at least 60 days. This extension is essential to ensure that all concerned citizens-including members of local Tribal Nations and those living in rural or underserved areas-have a fair opportunity to review the proposal and provide meaningful input.

I oppose the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project because of its potential to cause serious environmental harm to the Black Hills, including risks to water quality, wildlife, and forest health. Additionally, this project threatens to disrupt traditional Lakota ceremonial practices and sacred sites that have existed for generations. These cultural and spiritual values deserve protection and respect.

Given the potential for significant environmental and cultural impacts, I urge the Forest Service to require a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project. A comprehensive EIS is necessary to fully evaluate the long-term consequences of exploratory drilling in such a sensitive and sacred area.

Thank you for considering my comments and for your role in protecting our public lands.