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Comments: The Black Hills are sacred to the Lakota people and must be protected from mining.

The Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project would not only disrupt the traditional ceremonial practices of the Lakota, but negatively impact the environment as well. According to research from Black Hills Clean Water Alliance (BHCWA), "the project would involve 18 drill pads. Exploration could contaminate water in the upper Rapid Creek watershed, with some proposed drill pads very close to streams. And there is also the potential for contamination or cross-contamination of underground water sources." We need to be investing in sources of clean energy rather than continuing to harm our planet and people through both the extraction and consumption of fossil fuels.

I am requesting a 60-day extension of the "scoping" public comment period for the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project #67838, so everyone has an opportunity to comment. Additionally, I am requesting that the Forest Service to require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project.