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First name: Leanne

Last name: Keck

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern,

I write to express my strong opposition to the Pete Lien and Sons Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project (#67838).

This land, located in the Black Hills of South Dakota, was taken from the Oceti Sakowin (Great Sioux Nation) in direct violation of the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty. This treaty guaranteed the Black Hills to the Lakota people in perpetuity-a promise broken by the U.S. government once gold was discovered in the region. Any further mineral exploration or extraction only deepens this historic injustice and disregards the spiritual and cultural significance of the Black Hills to Indigenous communities.

This project threatens not only a sacred landscape but also the environmental integrity of the area, including its water sources and wildlife. Continuing to prioritize corporate interests over treaty obligations and environmental protection is unacceptable.

I urge the Forest Service to honor its responsibility to the public and to the original stewards of this land by denying this drilling proposal. It is also requested that the comment period be open a full 60 days to allow the public a fair chance to respond.