

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/16/2025 7:04:35 PM

First name: Julia

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project in the Black Hills. My family owns a cabin and land near the project area, and we have spent countless days there together over the years. It's a place that has brought us peace, joy, and connection-not only to one another, but to the natural world around us. We have put time, care, and love into this land, and the thought of mining disrupting it is deeply upsetting.

This project threatens to permanently damage the quiet beauty and ecological balance of the Black Hills. The area is home to a wide variety of wildlife-deer, elk, birds, and many other animals that depend on the undisturbed forest for habitat. The noise, pollution, and physical destruction that come with drilling will drive these animals away and harm delicate ecosystems that can't be easily restored. The Black Hills are more than just trees and rock; they are a living environment that supports countless species and offers refuge to both people and wildlife.

I had always hoped to bring my own children here one day, to share with them the same experiences that have meant so much to me-hiking through the pines, watching wildlife, and simply being in a place that feels untouched and sacred. If this mining project goes forward, that hope may be lost. The land will not be the same, and the peace we've always found there may disappear.

I urge the Forest Service to consider the long-term consequences of this project and to protect the Black Hills from irreversible harm. Please do not allow this mining exploration to proceed.

Sincerely,

Julia Wiedmeier