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First name: Harley
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: To Whom It May Concern,

My name is H. Ryott Glayzer, and I am a young O'ohe Nu?pa Lakota physicist, born and raised in South Dakota. I am writing to strongly oppose the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project proposed by Pete Lien & Sons near Pe'Sla in the central Black Hills.

As a scientist, I understand the need for natural resources and the technologies they support. But as a Lakota person, I also understand that some places hold a sacredness that cannot and should not be disturbed-Pe'Sla is one of those places. It has been a spiritual and cultural center for the Oceti Sakowin since time immemorial. Our ceremonies, stories, and way of life are deeply tied to this land. It is not a relic of the past; it is still very much alive for us today.

Graphite may power batteries and technologies, but no amount of so-called progress is worth the desecration of a sacred site. What we are facing is not just environmental degradation-it is cultural erasure. Pe'Sla is not just land; it is our relative. It is where we go to pray, to seek guidance, to connect with the universe and our ancestors. You cannot drill 1,000 feet into that kind of sacredness without drilling into the heart of who we are.

I urge the Forest Service to deny the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project and to conduct a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The cumulative impacts-cultural, spiritual, ecological-must be considered with the gravity they deserve. This is not just a permitting issue; it is a moral one.

I am young, and I have devoted my life to science and learning. But that journey means nothing if it costs us our sacred places. Please do not allow this project to move forward. Protect Pe'Sla-for the earth, for the future, and for all peoples who believe that there are still things in this world that are too sacred to destroy.

Respectfully,
H. Ryott Glayzer
O'ohe Nu?pa Lakota
Physicist and Defender of Pe'Sla