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First name: Michael

Last name: Catches Enemy

Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Michael Catches Enemy. I am Titunwan Lakota of the Oceti Sakowin. I, like my family and relatives, are direct descendants of these sacred Black Hills as it is a foundational part of our origin stories. As Lakota, our very identity is tied to these Black Hills, and I am adamantly and vehemently against any further desecration, destruction, and illegal taking of minerals that reside within the "Heart of everything that is". Enough is enough already, mining has already taken too much since the early gold miners showed up illegally in the 1800s. Exploratory drilling, mining (of all types), and the aftermath of taking at will, are merely meant to benefit a few people for profit (monetary), representing yet another capitalist move and the so-called American dream. The Lakota fought to protect these lands with their lives, our ancestors died to protect their Mother Earth; yet here we are in 2025 still facing greed of the few, without any regard to what these activities do to the environment, the biodiversity, the floral and fauna, and especially, the water that all life depends on. I do not support any efforts of the Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project, which ultimately puts the wants of a few humans above all else. The Black Hills remain unceded Treaty lands of the Lakota. Regardless of your regulations that say these actions are excluded, anyone who knows and truly understands environmental laws, knows that this action requires an environmental impact statement and Tribal consultation and input, with free, prior and informed consent. The cumulative and significant effects on the quality of the human environment is the premise of these laws, taking into consideration all detrimental effects. There is nothing good about this project, nothing!