

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/16/2025 8:15:45 PM

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Comments: I'm writing to share my opposition to the proposed policies that allow strip mining in the Black Hills.

My family owns land in the Black Hills and will be directly impacted by these mining operations. One of the proposed sites will be yards off of the property. We haven't had this land for generations, but our goal is to keep it in the family and preserve it for future generations to enjoy. We've come to love the quiet beauty, the wildlife, and the feeling of standing in a place that still feels untouched and truly American.

Allowing mining in this area would change that forever. It would damage the ecosystem, disrupt the land, and ruin something that should be protected-not just for us, but for everyone. The Black Hills aren't just any piece of land, they're part of what makes this country so great.

One of the things that defines America is our commitment to protecting our natural spaces. No other country in the world has the kind of topographical diversity and preserved wilderness that we do. It's something we should be proud of and continue to uphold. Destroying places like the Black Hills for short-term potential gains goes against everything we should stand for. It's short-sighted, and frankly, un-American. I understand wanting to bolster American manufacturing and industry, but there are better ways to do so that do not involve permanently destroying such pristine natural beauty.

Again, I am strongly opposed to this proposed mining plan. We need to protect places like the Black Hills-not only for the people who live near them or visit them, but for the generations who come after us.