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First name: Shelby

Last name: Anderson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to voice strong opposition to the proposed Pete Lien and Sons Rochford Mineral Exploratory Drilling Project (#67838). This project poses a serious threat to the environment, the cultural heritage of Indigenous communities, and the long-term wellbeing of the Black Hills region.

The Black Hills-Paha Sapa-are sacred to the Lakota people. They are not just a landscape but a living, spiritual place central to Lakota history, identity, and ceremony. Any disturbance to this land, especially through industrial exploration and potential future mining, is a direct violation of the sacredness of Paha Sapa and the treaties meant to protect it. Proceeding with this project continues a long history of broken promises and environmental harm imposed on Native lands.

In addition, the proposed drilling risks contaminating critical water sources, disturbing fragile ecosystems, and undermining the peace and health of local communities-human and non-human alike. The cumulative impacts of such industrial activity are often irreversible and disproportionately affect Indigenous and rural populations.

I urge decision-makers to reject this proposal, honor the sovereignty and spiritual traditions of the Lakota Nation, and uphold their duty to protect public lands and cultural heritage for future generations.