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Organization: Na Wahine Toa Foundation

Title: President

Comments: My name is [Your Name], and I submit this testimony in firm opposition to the proposed mining project in the sacred site of Pesla, within the Black Hills. I speak not only as an ally to the Lakota people, whose ancestral ties to this land predate colonization, but also as a person deeply connected to ongoing struggles across Indigenous homelands-including Hawai'i-where sacred places are similarly under attack by settler-state interests.

Pesla is not just land. It is sacred. It is the heart of cultural, spiritual, and ceremonial life for the Lakota people. To consider desecrating it for profit is an act of violence. It is a continuation of a long history of colonial theft and erasure.

We have seen this playbook before. In Hawai'i, they tried to build a massive telescope atop Mauna Kea, the most sacred mountain to Kanaka Maoli. They said it was for "science" and "progress," but we knew it was about control, about pushing Indigenous people to the margins once again. We stood up. We resisted. And we are still resisting.

Now here, in the Black Hills, the same forces come wearing different suits but carrying the same message: that our sacredness is less important than their profit, that our rights are inconvenient obstacles to their extractive ambitions.

Let's be honest: this is not just about mining. This is about a broader effort to dismantle the rights of Native peoples. To chip away at our legal protections. To undermine our sovereignty. This is about opening the floodgates to resource extraction, no matter the cost to the land, the water, the ancestors-or the future generations.

You cannot mine sacredness. You cannot dig into the earth without tearing into spirit, culture, and identity. This land is protected by treaty, by prayer, by history, and by the blood and resilience of Indigenous people who have never consented to this destruction.

I urge you-do not allow this project to move forward. Honor the treaties. Respect the sacred. Protect the Black Hills. And know this: Indigenous peoples are rising everywhere. From the Black Hills to Mauna Kea to the Amazon and beyond-we are done being silenced. We are done being pushed aside.

The world is watching, and history will remember where you stood.

Mahalo. Mitakuye oyasin.