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First name: Cassie Last name: Sando Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposal for mining operations on sacred Indigenous lands. Such actions not only threaten the physical environment but also deeply harm the spiritual, cultural, and historical fabric of Native communities.

Sacred sites are not just geographical locations-they are central to the identity, traditions, and religious practices of Indigenous peoples. Mining operations on these lands violate the fundamental rights of tribal nations to practice their cultures and honor their ancestors. Furthermore, they risk irreversible damage to ecosystems, water sources, and wildlife that these communities have protected and relied upon for generations.

It is unacceptable to move forward with projects that impact tribal lands without full, informed, and prior consent from the affected communities. Consultation must be more than a formality-it must be meaningful, respectful, and rooted in a recognition of tribal sovereignty and self-determination.

I urge your office and all relevant agencies to halt any mining plans on sacred lands and to engage in genuine consultation with the tribal nations whose heritage and future are at stake. Protecting these sites is not only a matter of environmental justice-it is a matter of basic human rights and respect.