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Comments: I oppose the Categorical Exclusion and demand a full Environmental Impact Statement. First of all, the United States exports gold; it is not a critical or strategic mineral. Most new gold is used for jewelry or financial speculation, not essential needs. Why are we risking pollution of sacred lands (that would be exploited and stolen under this proposal) for nothing essential? The project would disrupt Spearfish Canyon, a designated Scenic Byway and treasured public recreation space. It would endanger Bridal Veil Falls, wildlife habitats, and rare plants. In the Black Hills region, it is known that contaminants in karst systems can travel miles in just days, bypassing natural filtration and reaching drinking water sources or fragile aquatic habitats. Water that feeds Spearfish Creek, a beloved trout stream and water source, could become toxic in days. All of this for what, a metal we don't need? In addition to the environmental dangers/impact, the land borders ceremonial Tribal lands used year-round, thus creating a danger to human life and culture. Critically, this project has entirely failed to consult the Tribes whose homelands it threatens. Say NO!