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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Subject: Opposition to Ponderosa Exploration Drilling Project #64551

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Ponderosa Exploration Drilling Project (#64551), which threatens to desecrate the sacred lands of the Black Hills, a place of immense cultural, spiritual, and historical significance.

The Black Hills are not simply a parcel of land to be exploited for resources. They are sacred. They are protected under the 1851 and 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty: binding legal agreements that recognize these lands as belonging to the Lakota people. These treaties are not relics of the past, but living documents that hold both moral and legal weight today. Continuing to ignore or violate them not only undermines the law but perpetuates the historical injustices committed against Indigenous nations.

Extreme energy extraction in this area is not only environmentally reckless, with potential irreversible impacts on the land, water, and wildlife; but also deeply disrespectful to the Lakota people and their sovereign rights. It is not up to corporations or external authorities to determine what happens to these lands. That decision rests with the Lakota Nation.

I urge you to listen to the Indigenous stewards of this land: the Lakota people and reject this project entirely. No amount of economic gain justifies the continued erasure of Indigenous rights, desecration of sacred sites, or violation of treaty obligations.

We are at a crossroads. Let this be a moment where we choose justice over greed, healing over harm, and respect over exploitation.

Sincerely,

Brian Berka, Arizona, USA