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Title:

Comments: This is a proposal for test drilling. Since the project is immoral and environmentally disastrous, there's no reason to conduct test drilling.

The way these things usually go is first do testing and advance work, then claim that because they already spent so much money they have to keep going. And to provide inadequate environmental reviews, then fight against any demands for a proper review.

Even though the mining that could follow the testing would be environmentally disastrous, I am going to focus on the moral issues.

Tribes have a right to their sacred lands, and to protect their sacred lands. It's obvious that this land has been recognized as sacred for a very long time. The idea of making money by drilling it is new, from outsiders who have no connection to the land - let me emphasize that: the Canadian company that wants to do this has no historical, traditional, or any kind of rights to the land at all. They just want to make money, and think they can pressure the locals into going along for a few pennies in tax dollars and temporary jobs.

The people who have been guardians of the land for hundreds of years or more are the Oceti Sakowin, and they are saying no. They have earned the right to protect the land, by caring for it for so long. There is no way that profits (for foreign companies, yet) can match the importance.

Only a spiritually bankrupt people could even consider such a move. Sure, it's possible the company might bribe tribal officials, local state or federal officials, or threaten or pressure people in either group.

If you support government by corruption and bribery rather than honest care for land, people, and communities, go ahead, and we will do our best to stop you. If you have a sense of decency, of respect; a will to do the right thing for our children and grandchildren, for the plants and animals and all beings of this place, if you care for the future of all our families - you will say no.

Don't argue that it's just a test drill. Stopping it now will save LOTS of money in the process of giving the land a chance, and the people a chance to keep their legally guaranteed rights to sacred places.

Please consider your place in the history of this earth. How do you want to be remembered? You could be the ones who decided to side with the earth rather than the exploiters.

Thank you.