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Comments: Although I reside in Montgomery County, I frequently visit and value the areas identified in the proposed quartz mining project, and therefore feel both a connection to and a responsibility for their preservation.

I respectfully oppose this proposal as it poses a significant threat to ecosystems that are both fragile and irreplaceable. Large-scale mining operations have the potential to disrupt wildlife habitats, degrade water quality, and permanently alter the natural landscape - consequences that far outweigh any short-term economic benefit.

Furthermore, the leasing of these lands would effectively eliminate public access, transforming shared natural spaces into restricted zones. This shift prioritizes private exploitation over the collective good, limiting opportunities for recreation, education, and meaningful engagement with the environment.

If mining is to be considered at all, it should be approached with the utmost restraint and responsibility. A model that allows for limited, small-scale collection using only hand tools - while maintaining public access - would represent a far more balanced and sustainable alternative.

I strongly encourage decision-makers to place long-term environmental stewardship and public interest at the forefront of this decision