Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/29/2026 6:00:00 AM
First name: Jamy Ian
Last name: Swiss
Organization:
Title:
Comments: I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Bear Lodge Rare Earth Project.

There are some places that should not be sacrificed for short-term economic gain. The natural world is already being damaged and diminished at an alarming rate. Forests, wildlife habitat, watersheds, and other irreplaceable natural places are disappearing or being degraded because we continually treat the land as a resource to be extracted rather than as a living system that sustains us all.

The Bear Lodge area is not simply a collection of minerals beneath the ground. It is part of our natural heritage. Once a landscape is substantially altered, the damage cannot simply be undone. No amount of economic benefit can truly replace an intact ecosystem, clean water, wildlife habitat, and the opportunity for future generations to experience these places as they exist today.

I am also deeply concerned about the treatment of our public lands. These lands belong to the American people. They are held in trust for all of us[mdash]not just for corporations or private interests that seek to extract their resources. Public land should be managed with the long-term public interest in mind, including conservation, ecological health, recreation, wildlife, cultural values, and the rights of future generations.

We should not accept the idea that because valuable minerals exist beneath public land, those minerals must automatically be extracted. We have a responsibility to ask whether every proposed mine is truly necessary, what will be lost in the process, and whether the benefits justify the permanent changes to the landscape.

The choices we make today will determine what kind of planet we leave to those who come after us. Future generations cannot speak at today's public hearings, but they will live with the consequences of our decisions.

Please reject the Bear Lodge Rare Earth Project and protect this public land and its natural values from irreversible industrial development.

Public lands are a shared inheritance. We have a responsibility to leave them intact[mdash]not diminish them and call the loss progress.