

December 30, 2020

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Earl Stewart, Forest Supervisor, US Forest Service
Matthew Reece, Project Manager
Juneau Ranger District
8510 Mendenhall Loop Road
Juneau, AK 99801
sm.fs.kensington@usda.gov

RE: Alaska Committee Comments on support for the Kensington for Plan of Amendment 1 to support an additional 10 years of operation that supports the Capital City's economy.

Dear Messrs. Stewart and Reece,

The Alaska Committee is comprised of 22 board members representing a cross-section of the Juneau Community. The purpose of the committee is to enhance Alaska's Capital City to better serve all Alaskans.

Maintaining the Capital in Juneau is an important community goal and strategy. Supporting a diversified economy that supports the resiliency of our economy and provides the tax base to provide local government services is critical in maintain and improving Juneau as Alaska's Capital City.

The Coeur Alaska Kensington Mine began operations a decade ago and has been a large contributor to our many community charities that do the groundwork in making Juneau a better community and Capital City. Due to State budget cuts, our local University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) was in jeopardy. Keeping and maintaining a UAS campus in Juneau is critical for our Capital City. Coeur Alaska has and continues to support the UAS Environmental Sciences Program. Most recently, Coeur Alaska has donated over \$450,000 to the UAS Coeur Alaska Environmental Science Award Endowment Fund. Coeur Alaska has provided another \$30,000 in the UAS Introduction to Mining Operations and Maintenance.

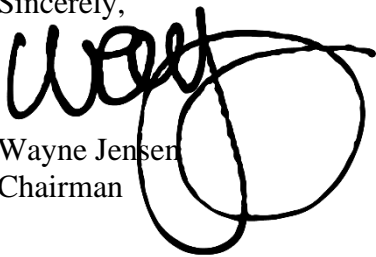
It is through Coeur Alaska's dedication to our university and generosity and gives back to our Capital City that makes Coeur Alaska Kensington Mine an indispensable corporate community member. The 386 direct full-time jobs along with the \$55 million of direct payroll make the Kensington Mine the 2nd largest private employer in Juneau. The additional jobs and indirect payroll along with the direct payment to local vendors of another \$16 million annually provides prosperity for not only mining services, but restaurants, theaters, and the promotion of our local arts.

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As our community faces challenges with COVID-19, the decrease in tourism, the decrease of in-state travel to our Capital City, it is important to have the stability and economic resiliency that Coeur Alaska provides to the Capital City, but also our Southeast Alaska region. Juneau has a long history of mining and Coeur Alaska helps set an example of how to do mining, right.

Coeur Alaska is seeking another 10 years of operation with their preferred option POA #1 using the same technology and tailings methodology that not only has been previously permitted but has now been proven safe, effective, and protective of the aquatic and wildlife habitat for the last 10 years. We ask that for the benefit and resiliency of our Capital City that you consider the POA 1 alternative as the preferred and permitted alternative for an additional 10 years of operation to provide the Capital City continued economic, educational, and environmental dividends.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wayne Jensen', written over a large, stylized circular scribble.

Wayne Jensen
Chairman