

January 2, 2020

Matthew Reece, POA1 SEIS Project Manager
Juneau Ranger District
8510 Mendenhall Loop Road
Juneau, AK, 99801

Submitted electronically to U.S. Forest Service: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=55533>

RE: Draft SEIS for Kensington Mine Plan of Operations Amendment 1 (POA 1)

Dear Mr. Reece:

On behalf of Alaska Native Brotherhood Camp 70 please find the following comments on the U.S. Forest Service's Draft Supplemental Impact Statement for the Kensington Mine Plan of Operations Amendment 1 (POA 1) submitted by Coeur Alaska, Inc.

The Alaska Native Brotherhood (ANB) is the oldest civil rights organization in North America founded in 1912. Our mission is to better the lives of Native people and their families; to continue the fight for civil rights and land rights of all Native people; to share the cultural knowledge, wisdom, and artistic beauty of Native Tribal Societies and strive for a spirit of Brotherhood and Sisterhood among all people.

ANB Camp 70 supports the Proposed Action which is POA 1 as submitted by Coeur Alaska for the Kensington Mine. Coeur Alaska has demonstrated that it is a responsible steward of the land and waters associated with its operation. It has done a good job of taking care of the environment and has protected water quality and the local fisheries in Berners Bay and in Lynn Canal.

Since undertaking the planning and permitting of this mine Coeur has worked closely with the Alaska Native community and Alaska Native Corporations and tribes through meaningful partnerships and consultation, providing both contracting and employment opportunities. A quick overview of Coeur's day to day operations reveals meaningful and respectful relations and Alaska Native employment within its transportation, construction, compliance and planning operations. Coeur Alaska's commitment to local and Alaska Native hire is to be commended. Kensington provides a wide variety of high paying jobs throughout the entire operation. The work schedules at the mine allow for people living in surrounding communities to work at the mine and then return to their homes in between shifts to enjoy a life centered around their community and a traditional way of living including hunting, fishing and gathering. We cannot overstate how important these incomes are to the economies in these smaller communities, and how many in the communities this supports. We consider Coeur Alaska's mining operation key to a healthy Capital City as well as the broader regional and national economies.

Specifically, Coeur has reached out and respectfully engaged Alaska Native people and communities of Southeast Alaska in the planning and construction of this safe and stable economic engine located in Lynn Canal along the reaches of Berners Bay. Our culture and

tradition require acknowledging the significance of those that have come before, those who walk with us now, and those who will come in the future. It is that care and acknowledgment that underscores our continued support after careful review.

Mining is essential and is a critical part of our economy. Coeur Alaska is a respectful mining company that honors its commitments and works closely with our people. We encourage the Forest Service to choose Coeur Alaska's proposed action and approve POA 1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marcelo Quinto". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'S' at the end.

Marcelo Quinto, President
ANB Camp 70
2551 Vista Drive C202
Juneau, AK 99801