



THE AMERICAN LEGION POST #25

P.O. BOX 210131 • AUKE BAY, ALASKA 99821



January 3, 2021

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

sm.fs.kensington@usda.gov

Dear Mr. Reece,

I am writing to you as the Commander of the Auke Bay Post #25 American Legion Post, which has 97 members in the Juneau area, in support of the Kensington Mine Plan of Operations Amendment 1 to continue mining for another decade.

Our post would like to point out the following facts. Coeur Alaska has supported our annual Thank you for your Service Veterans dinner in which any veteran and their family are treated to a dinner thanking the service member and their family for their service. This dinner is offered free of charge through the generosity of Coeur Alaska and other benefactors.

Coeur Alaska is extremely supportive of hiring military veterans. Coeur Alaska initiated its Coeur Heroes Program in 2018. This veteran program highlights and engages military members through on-the-job training and experience. Coeur Heroes allows past and present military members to use their special skills such as safety and environmental protection that they developed during their time of service to help make a difference in Coeur's operations. Coeur Alaska's Human Resources Staff attend recruiting events at several bases in Alaska. Currently, Coeur Alaska Kensington Mine employs 48 veterans, which account for 13% of their entire workforce. These high paying jobs help veterans, and their families seek productive family-wage jobs and income that helps our Juneau and Southeast Alaska communities in many ways.

Coeur Alaska has demonstrated responsible leadership in our community providing over \$55 million in direct payroll and benefits in 2019 and contributing millions of dollars in taxes that support our schools and City and Borough government functions.

Coeur Alaska is seeking an additional 10 years of mine life using tried and proven plans and operations for keeping our environment safe while providing community benefits and direct benefits to the veteran community. Allowing Coeur to proceed as they have proposed allows the Kensington Mine to continue benefitting our community for years to come.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Tom Dawson
Post Commander, Auke Bay Post #25