



**THE AMERICAN LEGION POST #25**  
P.O. BOX 210131 • AUKE BAY, ALASKA 99821



April 27, 2023

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

[sm.fs.greenscreek@usda.gov](mailto:sm.fs.greenscreek@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. Our post passed a resolution at our April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting to support the Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company (HGCMC) and the preferred Alternative D of their North Extension Project to continue mining for up to 40 years.

Our post would like to point out the following facts. HGCMC has supported our annual Alaska National Guard Day, *Thank You for your Service Veterans Dinner*. Every Juneau veteran and their family are served a dinner thanking the service member and their family for their service. This dinner is offered free of charge through the generosity of HGCMC and other benefactors.

HGCMC is exceptionally supportive of hiring military veterans. Currently, HGCMC employs 53 veterans, accounting for 11% of their workforce. These high-paying jobs help veterans, and their families seek productive family-wage employment and income that beneficially affects our Juneau and Southeast Alaska communities in many ways. Juneau has over 2300 veterans; when you include veteran family members, this is a sizeable and important demographic of our Juneau population.

HGCMC has demonstrated responsible leadership in our community, providing over \$76 million in direct payroll and benefits in 2022 and contributing millions of dollars in taxes that support our schools and City and Borough government functions.

HGCMC is seeking up to an additional 40 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 HGCMC to proceed as they have proposed allows the Greens Creek Mine to continue benefitting our community for years to come.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Kindest regards,

Duff Mitchell  
Post Commander, Auke Bay Post #25