

Attn. Matthew Reece

Tongass National Forest Greens Creek Mine  
NEP SEIS 8510 Mendenhall Loop Road Juneau, AK 99801

**Re: Greens Creek Mine North Extension Project**

Mr. Reece:

I started my career in mining almost 23 years ago and have worked for four (4) major mining companies, and at 16+ mine sites throughout the lower 48. When I accepted my position with Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company in Human Resources to live and work in Juneau, AK, I thought I had just won the lottery. The beautiful, serene, and majestic area breaths life into all who are fortunate enough to live here. Our employees are environmentalists which in mining can sometimes feel like an anomaly. We adhere to strict environmental compliance it is our code, and our conduct reflects that code.

I work for an organization where the "Environment matters", "our Safety matters", "the Community matters", "our Youth matter", and "I matter" which is a rare find in the industry today. Our employees are involved in the community and support many various organizations such as local scholarships, job training, monetary donations, and volunteering. We invest in our surrounding communities and the environment because that is who we strive to be.

So, in a nutshell I am writing in support of Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company's (HGCMC) request to expand their Tailings Disposal Facility (TDF) and related infrastructure as described in their North Extension Project (NEP). I favor Alternative D. Alternative D provides for an expansion of the existing TDF that builds on the existing successful facility, minimizes new monument disturbance outside the existing lease boundary, and avoids direct disturbance to sensitive habitats and environmental resources.

Mines such as HGCMC must pass through one of the most stringent and involved permitting processes anywhere in the world and they have met this challenge. Their daily operations are governed by dozens of stringent permits, and they devote significant resources to prevent impacts to their surrounding environment.

HGCMC has demonstrated its commitment to environmental excellence for the past 35 years. It also is a significant contributor to Juneau's economy and a generous community supporter.

For these reasons, I support HGCMC's tailings expansion, Alternative D.

Thank you,

*Debra Ore*

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