Kerwin S. Dewberry, Forest Supervisor

Coronado National Forest   
ATTN: Hermosa Critical Minerals Project   
300 West Congress Street   
Tucson, AZ, 85701

**Subject**: Letter of Support for South32’s Hermosa Critical Minerals Exploration and Mine Plan of Operations

Dear Mr. Dewberry,

I am writing to express my support for South32’s Hermosa project as the only advanced mine development project in the United States that could produce two federally designated critical minerals – manganese and zinc – both of which are essential minerals for powering the nation’s clean energy future.

As a life-long resident of Santa Cruz County, I recognize the potential benefits and also some of the concerns of our community.

I recognize Hermosa’s potential to bring numerous benefits not only to Southern Arizona but to the entire nation, while also being at the forefront of technological innovation, using methods for extraction and processing that are more sustainable and environmentally friendly. In addition, Hermosa will help create hundreds of direct & indirect high-paying jobs across Santa Cruz County, a County infamous for its high unemployment rate. The project will also deliver millions annually in new tax dollars to fund public schools, community colleges, and county services that will contribute to economic development, leading to improved infrastructure, investment and quality of life for the residents Santa Cruz County.

Hermosa can play a critical role in economic development, technological progress and job creation in our community. Mitigating social, and environmental implications and ensuring sustainable mining practices must continue to be addressed by all stakeholders to ensure responsible stewardship of our natural resources, thus safeguarding the quality of life of our citizens.

Thank you for your consideration. You may reach out to me [valenciaguillermo1@gmail.com](mailto:valenciaguillermo1@gmail.com) with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,



Guillermo Valencia

1495 W Calle Plata

Nogales, AZ 85621