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First name: Bill

Last name: Assenmacher

Organization: Southern Arizona Business Coalition

Title: President

Comments: Re: Arizona Minerals, Inc. (AMI), Hermosa-Taylor Deposit Drilling Project

Dear District Ranger Kinsey,

Thank you in advance for your attention to this letter in support of Arizona

Minerals, Inc. ("AMI") and its proposed exploratory drilling project in Santa Cruz

County, Arizona, in the Sierra Vista Ranger District of the Coronado National Forest.

The Southern Arizona Business Coalition (SABC) is a non-for-profit Corporation promoting the development and growth of sustainable and responsible economic ventures and expanded employment opportunities in Southern Arizona, including the mining, military, engineering and manufacturing industries. And, we advocate the proper utilization of our natural resources as a part of our long-term economic recovery and stabilization.

Since 1910, Arizona has been the nation's top copper producer - producing more copper than all the other 49 states combined. We strongly support responsible mining such as the Hermosa-Taylor project to continue the tremendous economic contributions mining operations make to the tax revenues of local governments, the State of Arizona and the high paying jobs it provides for its citizens. AMI currently employs more than 160 people ( either directly or through contracting work), and the proposed exploratory drilling project will increase that work force by another 25-30 contracted workers. These jobs employ both skilled and unskilled laborers in the Patagonia, Nogales, Sonoita, Sierra Vista, and Tucson areas, and the daily presence of a work force this size translates into significant local spending that is a tremendous boost to the economy in Santa Cruz County.

Further, we are familiar with AMI's Operation and Maintenance Plan and believe

that it is designed to have the smallest possible impact on the environment by:

1. Minimizing the number of drill pads, drilling multiple exploration holes from the same drill pad, and maximizing the use of previously disturbed areas.
2. Shutting down drilling during the breeding season of protected species in the area, even though the project is not located in known habitat for those species.
3. Using high-quality reclamation to restore the limited area impacted.
4. Completing all work (including reclamation) in less than a year. In other words, the planning and commitment behind this project is an example of AMI's strong focus on environmental responsibility.

Again, thank you for your attention to this important process and we request that the Hermosa-Taylor Deposit Drilling Project be approved as soon as possible to allow Arizona Minerals, Inc. to assess the value of its mineral rights in an environmentally responsible way that brings these critical economic benefits to the local community and the state of Arizona.

Sincerely,

Bill Assenmacher, President

Southern Arizona Business Coalition

Rick Grinnell, Vice President

Southern Arizona Business Coalition