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First name: Dale

Last name: Thomas

Organization: Arizona Minerals Inc.

Title: Contractor

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

Dear District Ranger Kinsey,

I am writing on my behalf to express support for 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 project is a valuable enhancement to our local community and our state's economy.

AM I's exploratory drilling project allows AMI to assess the value of its mineral rights and contribute to Arizona's economy while protecting and preserving our local environment. AMI currently employs about 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 Tucson area, 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.

I anticipate and welcome the increase that the Hermosa-Taylor Drilling Project will bring to local business if the project is approved. We have seen firsthand the local benefit of the resulting increase in local purchasing power and need for services resulting from the AMI work.

The Hermosa-Taylor Deposit Drilling Project should be approved to allow Arizona Minerals, Inc. to assess the value of its mineral rights in an environmentally responsible way that brings economic benefits to the local community and the state of Arizona. I fully supports the Hermosa-Taylor Deposit Drilling Project, and encourages you to approve the project as expeditiously as possible.

Sincerely,

Dale A Thomas Jr

Geologist