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August 21, 2021

Regional Forester David E. Schmid
USDA Forest Service Alaska Region
709 W 9th Street
PO Box 21628
Juneau, AK 99802-1628
Fax: 907-586-784
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Re: Draft Record of Decision (ROD) - Objection for plan of operation amendment 1 (POA1) For Kensington Gold Mine On Juneau Ranger District Tongass National Forest

Dear Mr. Schmid:

Please do NOT allow permitting for Amendment 1. There is no assurance Kensington will follow the clean water act given their track record of violations with the Clean Water Act violations.

80% (4 of the 5 mines) failed to capture or control contaminated mine water, resulting in water quality violations that often occurred over an extended period. For example, in 2019 the EPA filed a Consent Order with the Kensington Mine to resolve Clean Water Act violations extending over a five-year period from 2013-2018. The consent order outlined 200 alleged wastewater violations, including discharges into Sherman Creek that exceeded limits for manganese, ammonia, sulfate, toxicity, pH, and turbidity, and discharges into East Fork Slate Creek that exceeded limits for cadmium, sulfate, manganese and TDS.

- AK Mine Pollution Report 2020 / ALASKA METAL MINES: FAILURE TO CAPTURE AND TREAT MINE POLLUTION

Report at earthwork.org/alaska-mines.pdf

Giving them a cherry on top permit after violation of the clean water act is insulting to the people who eat food from Berners Bay. If you have children or younger relatives, please take into account and think about the future of their environment.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Kaelen Delcastillo (Objector)
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