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First name: Michael

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Organization: Tucson metro CHamber

Title: Vice President

Comments: Dear Mr. Goshen,

This letter is in response to your request for comments on the San Antonio Exploration Drilling Project.

The Tucson Metro Chamber, founded in 1896, is a membership-based business advocacy and community development organization that represents 1,500 businesses, employing more than 160,000 employees in Tucson and Pima County. The Tucson Metro Chamber is committed to being the connector of leaders and influences, catalyst for business growth, and champion for a stronger community.

After review of the Forest Service public scoping report, the Tucson Metro Chamber is prepared to offer the following comments:

1.The US Forest Service's selection of the Categorical Exclusion is appropriate for level of analysis in accordance with the NEPA process. The Plan of Operations meets the standard for this level of review based on the short duration of the project and the small footprint of the project. This project utilizes the upmost in plans to protect air, water, native species and archaeological sites. Additionally, the project more than adequately protects night sky and prevents unnecessary light pollution due to total daylight hour drilling.

2.Economic development, job creation and tax collections in southern Arizona depends on the development of mineral resources. The mining industry in Arizona creates more than 38,000 jobs and contributes millions of dollars to local and county infrastructure annually.

3.No modern city, home, factory, computer, car, medical facility, or green energy facility can be built without mined materials. The events of 2020 have highlighted the importance of having a robust supply chain and minerals are the cornerstone of that chain. We need a steady supply of domestically cultivated minerals to run our country's economy. Exploration is the first step in the domestic supply chain.

4.The world economy needs minerals and we must be environmental stewards to adhere to the stringent regulatory framework which protects water and air in our public lands.

The Tucson Metro Chamber supports the Forest Service's Categorical Exclusion of the San Antonio Exploration Drilling Project and urges the Sierra Vista District Ranger to issue the Decision Memorandum as soon as practicable.

Sincerely,

Michael Guymon