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Comments: Matt Reece and/or USFS Personnel:

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To whom it may concern -

It's been brought to my attention that Coeur Alaska is seeking a 10 year extension for the continued operation of the Kensington Mine, and that decision will be greatly influenced by the US Forest Service. I've lived and worked in Juneau for over 45 years, in the private sector. Prior to my retirement from Alaska-Juneau Communications, I visited the Kensington Mine on two occasions and observed first hand the efforts that went into accommodating, not compromising, the surrounding environment. I viewed their wet tailings treatment facility, and observed the care in which watershed was directed and protected. I have to admit to being positively impressed with the attention to detail and the obvious commitment to protecting the natural habitat of the area as much as possible, while still maintaining a profitable mining operation.

All in all, I consider the Kensington Mine a welcome contributor to our neighborhood in a number of ways. It has proven to operate in an environmentally responsible manner, it employs a substantial number of Juneau residents who are home-owning taxpayers, pays a pile of money to the municipality annually in the form of property taxes, while placing minimal demands on municipal resources, and has shown itself to be quite generous in supporting community programs (American Legion, VFW and National Guard among them).

Juneau needs productive industries like tourism and mining, to offset the largest employer here (government), which generates no revenue whatsoever. With the established track record of the Kensington Mine, I think it would be foolish, if not irresponsible, NOT to extend the operation for whatever amount of time Coeur is willing to commit to.

I encourage the US Forest Service to approve Coeur Alaska's Plan of Operations Amendment 1 as submitted so the Kensington Mine can continue operating without interruption. It even meets the US Forest Service's multi-purpose use mission! This is a win-win for all concerned. It'll allow the mine to continue operations, keep skilled people gainfully employed, it'll make the Forest Service look good and continue to be of social and economic benefit to the community.

Tim Armstrong

Past Commander: Auke Bay Post 25 American Legion

Past Commander: Veterans of Foreign Wars Taku Post 5559

Past Sr. Vice Commander: Disabled American Veterans Chapter 4

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