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First name: Zack

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Mr. Reece,

I am writing in support of Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company's (HGCMC) request to expand their Tailings Disposal Facility (TDF) and related infrastructure as described in their North Extension Project (NEP). HGCMC provides an indispensable opportunity for Juneau, Alaska. At a time when small communities in Alaska are pinning their hopes to the cruise ship and tourism industry, HGCMC is a consistent boon for economic growth. HGCMC has conducted operations in this national monument for over 35 years and consistently tests their soil, water, and air quality above and beyond the requirements, to ensure they comply with all permits and do not 'irreparably harm' the environment.

The question I always posit to those criticizing mining operations in the United States is, would you rather export this industry to a third world country where there are far fewer regulations in place? HGCMC has been mining responsibly in the Admiralty Island National Monument for years, and with this expansion they will continue to provide not only an economic benefit to the region but serve as a statement to the world on sustainable environmentalism. With this tailings expansion approval, your determination will be foundational to the belief that we will not export our production to cut monetary costs and thus stymie the ever-increasing global environmental impact from the exportation of mining to third world countries.

All the Best,

Zack