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First name: Ronald

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Honorable Persons,

I believe my family is a stakeholder in your decision. As 4th generation Alaskans, we fully support the Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company's proposed Alternative D expansion of the tailings disposal facility to minimize the disturbance outside the existing lease boundary and avoid direct disturbance to sensitive habitats and environmental resources.

My family is shocked by the Wild Fish Conservancy's judgment against the National Marine Fisheries Service for alleged violations of the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act that closed fishing only in Alaska's coastal waters to save endangered killer whales and Columbia River chinook salmon, but not in waters on the coasts of Oregon, Washington or Canada or the rearing areas of the Columbia River.

I note that Hecla's corporate office is in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, near the headwater of the Columbia River, making the owner of Greens Creek Mine a stakeholder in the Wild Fish Conservancy judgment too. And as a responsible Alaskan corporate resident, the Greens Creek Mine has maintained a highly commendable 35-year history of environmental excellence. Regardless, this court decision prohibits fishing for salmon in Alaska waters and controls the USDA Forest Service's decision to approve Hecla's proposal.

The Wild Fish Conservancy court judgment, the Endangered Species Act, and National Environmental Policy Act require all federal agencies to protect endangered killer whales and Columbia River chinook salmon. This requires the USDA Forest Service and other federal agencies to provide unqualified support for Alternative D of Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company's expansion proposal to minimize the disturbance outside the existing lease boundary and avoid direct disturbance to sensitive habitats and environmental resources.

I believe federal agency rejection of Hecla's environmental professional-qualified proposed Alternative D expansion would be a seditious conspiracy to obstruct or impede the execution of Biden-Harris Executive Order 14017. This Executive Order requires action across the Federal government to secure reliable and sustainable supplies of critical minerals and materials while also upholding the Administration's labor, environmental policy, environmental justice, and equity priorities. Furthermore, approval is required to encourage Hecla to continue exploring and extracting the critical and strategic mineral reserves essential for defending the United States of America, World democracy, and the preservation of both Alaska's and our Nation's social and economic integrity.

As an Alaskan stakeholder and fisherman, I implore you to support Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company's Alternative D proposal to expand their tailings disposal facility and related infrastructures to preserve endangered killer whales and Columbia River chinook salmon so my future grandchildren's offspring might enjoy fishing for salmon and viewing killer whales in Alaskan coastal waters.

Respectfully,
Ronald Alan Brooks