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Comments: I am writing in support of Alternative D for the following reasons:

It minimizes impact on Admiralty Island National Monument, avoids direct impacts to fish-bearing portions of watersheds, eliminates the need to construct a new "remote" Tailings Disposal Facility and continues the same or similar dry-stack tailings disposal method, which has been previously reviewed and approved by the Forest Service.

Hecla has an almost 30-year record of operating in a responsible manner inside the Monument and has developed a reclamation plan that has been approved by the U.S. Forest Service and the State and is supported by a bond.

The company is a major economic anchor for Juneau's economy and the largest private supporter of scholarship money for the University of Alaska Southeast.

For these and other reasons, I encourage the Forest Service to adopt Alternative D, which will allow the mine to continue operates for many years to come.