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First name: Tim

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Attn. Matthew Reece

Tongass National Forest Greens Creek Mine

NEP SEIS 8510 Mendenhall Loop Road Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Greens Creek Mine North Extension Project

Mr. Reece:

I am writing to express my strong support for Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company's (HGCMC) request to expand their Tailings Disposal Facility (TDF) and related infrastructure, as outlined in their North Extension Project (NEP). I am particularly in favor of Alternative D, which I believe offers the most advantageous approach.

Over the past 35 years, HGCMC has exhibited an unwavering commitment to environmental excellence. Their track record showcases their dedication to sustainable mining practices and responsible resource management. Additionally, HGCMC plays a vital role in contributing to Juneau's economy, providing employment opportunities and stimulating economic growth. Furthermore, the company has been a generous supporter of the local community, actively participating in various initiatives and programs.

As an employee of HGCMC, I can testify firsthand of the impact they are having on Alaska families and by effect many local communities all across this great state of ours. If this mine has to shut down for lack of the miniscule acreage they are requesting for this expansion, it would be devastating to much more than just Juneau. It would be a disaster to families all across the state.

The option they are proposing (Alternative D) would be an expansion of the existing TDF, which capitalizes on the proven success of the current facility. By doing so, it aims to minimize any new disturbances beyond the existing lease boundary and avoids direct impact on sensitive habitats and environmental resources. This alternative demonstrates a thoughtful and responsible approach to the expansion, prioritizing environmental preservation.

It is worth highlighting that mines like HGCMC undergo one of the most rigorous and exhaustive permitting processes worldwide, ensuring adherence to stringent environmental regulations. HGCMC has successfully met this challenge, obtaining numerous permits that govern their daily operations. They have consistently allocated significant resources to prevent any adverse impacts on the surrounding environment.

Taking these factors into account, I wholeheartedly endorse HGCMC's proposal for the tailings expansion, specifically Alternative D. It offers a balanced and conscientious approach that safeguards both the environment and the community's interests. I trust that the relevant authorities will carefully consider the merits of this project and the demonstrated commitment of HGCMC to environmental stewardship.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Tim Stenros