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Comments: [External Email]Comment on Greens Creek

[External Email]

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Hi Forest Service Staff,

I am writing in support of Alternative D: B Road West Relocation 2 for the Greens Creek DEIS. There is a compelling public interest in allowing the mine operator to expand tailings area(s) in order to extend the mine's life. First, Greens Creek has impressively low surface impact on Admiralty Island. Second, its mineral production is essential to support a national and international transition to zero-carbon energy production (Greens Creek is a major silver producer and solar PV panels use a great deal of silver, in addition to other essential minerals from Greens Creek that are used in EV batteries). Finally, DEISs should consider socioeconomic impacts of different permitting decisions, and operations at Greens Creek are essential as part of the regional economy, providing many high wage jobs with benefits, while Coeur is one of the leading contributors to local arts, sports, and other community non-profits. Greens Creek is located outside my legislative district but I believe as a state we should be sustaining and expanding the number of mines like this that are essential for a clean energy transition. Alaska is suffering from the impacts of climate change (from loss of commercial and subsistence resources to extreme weather-induced disasters like landslides) and we must act quickly to ensure minerals production supports zero-carbon electricity generation and the fastest possible transition to vehicle electrification.

Zack Fields

Representative, House District 17

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