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First name: Nicholas

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Attn: Matthew Reece

Tongass National Forest Greens Creek Mine

NEP SEIS 8150 Mendenhall Loop Road

Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Greens Creek Mine North Extension

I am writing to express my unequivocal support for the proposal to extend the tailing facility at Greens Creek Mine under as Alternative D.

As an Alaskan, I have long appreciated the crucial role the Greens Creek Mine plays in creating jobs in Southeast Alaska. These jobs extend well beyond those directly employed by the mine, with the indirect impacts rippling out to stimulate the local economy in many sectors. This extension will undoubtedly solidify these job opportunities, playing a vital role in our state's economic stability and growth.

Beyond the clear economic benefits however, Greens Creek Mine's operations hold an undeniable strategic importance for our nation's domestic security. The mine supplies essential minerals like silver, key to advancing a diversified mix of energy sources including solar power. Ensuring an uninterrupted domestic source of these materials is crucial for our country's energy security.

What is more, Greens Creek has set a high standard for responsible environmental stewardship, becoming an example for Alaska and the nation as a whole. Greens Creek's early adoption of dry stack tailings, reducing the surface acreage impact from 150 acres to less than 30 acres, shows a clear commitment to minimizing environmental impact. Also, Alternative D is designed to avoid any disturbance to fish-bearing reaches of Tributary Creek, reflecting an unwavering dedication to preserving our unique Alaskan ecosystems.

In light of these considerations, I urge you to approve the proposed Alternative D for the Greens Creek Mine. It is a proposal that promises not only economic benefits and enhances domestic energy security but also demonstrates how industry and environmental stewardship are not mutually exclusive.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your commitment to Alaska's future.

Sincerely,

Nicholas J. Begich III