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First name: S

Last name: Wiley

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 in support of Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company's (HGCMC) request to expand their Tailings Disposal Facility (TDF) and related infrastructure as described in their North Extension Project (NEP). I am in favor of Alternative D. Having lived in Juneau for shy of 8 years, I have seen the many positive impacts a mine such as HGCMC's has had on the community, from the employment and tax base to the community involvement with scholarships, support of local organizations, and education of the next generation.

Alternative D provides for an expansion of the existing TDF that builds on the existing successful facility, minimizes new monument disturbance outside the existing lease boundary, and avoids direct disturbance to sensitive habitats and environmental resources.

Mines such as HGCMC must pass through one of the most stringent and involved permitting processes anywhere in the world and continue to meet this challenge. Dozens of stringent permits govern their daily operations, and they devote significant resources to prevent impacts to their surrounding environment. Roughly half of the tailings are mixed with cement and used as backfill underground, reducing the footprint of the TDF and minimizing surface disturbance.

HGCMC has demonstrated its commitment to environmental excellence for the past 35 years. It also is a significant contributor to Juneau's economy and a generous community supporter.

I support HGCMC's tailings expansion, Alternative D.

Thank you,

S. Wiley