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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my firm support for the Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company's (HGCMC) proposed expansion of their Tailings Disposal Facility (TDF) and related infrastructure, as set forth in their North Extension Project (NEP). Specifically, I am endorsing Alternative D, or the B Road West Relocation 2, which exhibits a responsible balance between operational expansion and environmental preservation.

As one of the top three taxpayers in the Borough, Greens Creek Mine contributes significantly to our local economy. The mine employs nearly 500 people directly, with 35% of its workforce residing in the Juneau area and 56% living within Alaska. These employees are among the top wage earners in the Borough, with an average wage that is more than double the state average. The economic activity generated by these high-earning employees supports a wide range of local businesses and services, providing a robust economic ripple effect within our community.

Furthermore, the mine produces key materials such as gold, silver, lead, and zinc. These materials are essential to our national way of life, fueling a diverse range of sectors including jewelry, electronics, dentistry, photography, green energy technology, and construction, to name just a few. The importance of Greens Creek's contributions to these sectors cannot be overstated.

In relation to Alternative D, this proposal includes a 6.8-acre extension that carefully builds on the existing facility, minimizing any environmental impact. The extension is projected to provide an additional 27 to 40 years of mine operation, thereby securing these economic benefits for decades to come.

Importantly, HGCMC has demonstrated a commitment to post-operational environmental restoration, with robust bonding, plans, and expectations already in place to ensure that all disturbed lands are responsibly reclaimed and returned as closely as possible to their natural state upon closure. This further cements their commitment to environmental stewardship, a value that has been consistently demonstrated over their 35-year history.

For these reasons, I am pleased to voice my support for HGCMC's proposed expansion under Alternative D of the North Extension Project. This plan represents a sustainable blend of economic growth and environmental consideration, paving the way for the continued prosperity of our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.