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First name: Theresa

Last name: Winther

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

Dear 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). 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.

The entire operations of HGCMC are governed by permits and regulatory oversight agencies at the federal, state and local levels. HGCMC has demonstrated its commitment to environmental excellence for the past 35 years, and they clearly devote significant resources to prevent impacts to their surrounding environment. I see no indication that they intend anything less in their future operations.

As an employee of HGCMC, my perspective is that this company takes its role as a steward of the Admiralty Island National Monument very seriously. As residents of Alaska who live, work, and recreate in this area, the employees take their stewardship seriously as well. I believe that the company has established a culture of great pride and respect for the environment in which they operate.

While not relevant to the suitability of the tailings expansion, HGCMC is a financial stabilizer in Juneau's economy through wages, purchases, donations, and public service projects. They are committed to supporting their local community and strive to make positive impacts through financial support and service. They make generous donations to many organizations around Southeast; one example being that they donated and delivered a shipment of holiday grocery items to the community of Angoon. They show a great deal of commitment in our local schools, as well as in the university and trade programs around the state. They attend job fairs and provide several intern opportunities for those developing their careers in the mining industry. They understand the long-term benefits of encouraging residents of our state to pursue careers in mining.

HGCMC has a long history of good stewardship, they have shown a great level of care and detail in their proposed options and ultimate support for Alternative D, and they have a strong history of clean performance under regulatory governance; therefore, I support HGCMC's tailings expansion, Alternative D, which has the potential to extend the operating years for the Hecla Greens Creek Mine on Admiralty Island, Alaska.

Thank you,  
Theresa Winther  
Juneau, Alaska