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Comments: I have decades of experience as a general contractor undertaking hundreds of significant projects throughout Southeast Alaska: large buildings, heavy civil projects, entire subdivisions, etc. I have gained intimate knowledge of the challenges of conforming to environmental regulations. I am aware of the tendency of many operators to take shortcuts to cut costs of conformance.

I have visited Green's Creek Mine several times; either for work or as a visitor. What I observed was an operation whose management is obsessed with conforming to environmental protection. I saw absolutely no instance of "cutting of corners." On the contrary, I was amazed at their commitment to go above and beyond the minimum requirements--at any cost. It was truly remarkable to see such tenacious commitment to environmental care from a private operator. I attest to my observations without reservation.

As to opponents expressing concerns or objections, they appear unable to see what is clear and obvious to me. Their objections appear to be based primarily upon ideology rather than facts. For example, the report regarding lead contamination by Friends of Admiralty was easily factually debunked by various credible professionals. Its as if the opponents see the mining industry as that of a century ago when environmental stewardship was comparatively non-existent.

In the big picture, the Greens Creek Mine is a critical component of our national security and economy, as well as the Alaskan and Juneau economies. I believe it is vitally important for the USDA to approve the tailings disposal proposal Alternative-D in order to continue this positive sustainable relationship between government and industry. I pray you do so.

Thank you for your service.

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