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First name: Roger

Last name: Calloway

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Subject: Strengthening Juneau's Economy through the Greens Creek Mine North Extension Project

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 to you personally to express my staunch support for the Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company's (HGCMC) request to expand the Tailings Disposal Facility (TDF) as part of their North Extension Project (NEP). Having examined the options, I find Alternative D to be the most advantageous for reasons that align both with the shared commitment to environmental integrity and the economic prosperity of Juneau.

The expansion of the existing TDF, as proposed in Alternative D, builds on the successes of the current facility. It minimizes further monument disturbance, strictly staying within the existing lease boundary, and circumvents any direct harm to sensitive habitats and environmental resources.

Moreover, Greens Creek Mine is under the scrutiny of some of the world's most rigorous permitting processes, to which it has shown nothing but absolute compliance. HGCMC's operational ethos and dedicated resources have consistently proven their commitment to environmental excellence over the past 35 years.

Further testament to their commitment, extensive environmental studies spanning over four decades have been conducted in the Hawk Inlet and the surrounding environments of the Greens Creek Mine. Thousands of water, sediment, and biological samples have been taken and meticulously studied by the EPA, USFS, ADEC, and ADNR, rendering it one of the most thoroughly investigated locales in SE Alaska. All these studies have invariably shown that metal concentrations are generally consistent with, or lower than, other local, regional, and national values, indicating negligible effects of the mine on the Hawk Inlet ecosystem. All these records are public, providing transparent evidence of our benign environmental footprint. More details about this can be accessed at <https://dec.alaska.gov/water/hawk-inlet>.

The economic value of the HGCMC and the proposed expansion should not be understated. It is pivotal in sustaining Juneau's economy, providing direct and indirect employment to more than 900 families. This stable employment base translates into a robust tax foundation, the benefits of which cascade down to the underserved, underprivileged, and those in the lower-income brackets of our community. The prosperity of the Greens Creek Mine is unequivocally interlaced with the long-term economic health and social stability of Juneau.

Given these factors, I wholeheartedly support HGCMC's proposed tailings expansion under Alternative D. Their demonstrated commitment to environmental stewardship, substantial contribution to our local economy, and active community involvement underscore their essential role in our thriving Juneau community.