

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/13/2024 2:52:54 PM

First name: Dan

Last name: Blondeau

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my support for South32's Hermosa Project in the Patagonia Mountains near Tucson, Arizona. After reviewing the project summary, I believe this mining operation has the potential to provide significant benefits to the local community, the state of Arizona, and the nation as a whole.

As a global mining company investing heavily in North American operations, South32 is well-positioned to responsibly develop the Hermosa project, which is slated to produce critical minerals like manganese, zinc, silver, and lead. These materials are essential for powering the clean energy future and strengthening domestic supply chains. With the deployment of next-generation mining technology, the project can be developed sustainably while creating economic opportunities and improving lives in Santa Cruz County and surrounding areas.

I was particularly impressed by South32's proactive approach to engaging with various stakeholders, including neighbors, local businesses, educational institutions, tribal groups, environmental organizations, and government entities. By fostering collaborative working relationships and addressing potential concerns early on, the company demonstrates a commitment to transparency and a willingness to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any negative impacts.

The Hermosa Project represents a valuable opportunity to secure a domestic source of critical minerals, drive economic growth, and contribute to the clean energy transition while upholding high sustainability and community engagement standards. I wholeheartedly support this endeavor and urge the relevant authorities to carefully consider its significant advantages.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dan Blondeau