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Comments: South32 is committed to developing Hermosa in a way that benefits the community, minimizes impact on the environment, and creates new opportunities across the region. The operation will help to transform and grow the local economy, creating good-paying jobs so the next generation have opportunities to stay in Santa Cruz County. South32 recently made a \$2.16 billion investment in Southern Arizona, representing the largest private investment in the local economy to date. Hermosa will create more than 900 family-sustaining jobs, with each job generating an average income of \$90,000 annually - over double the average household income in the county today. The project will also deliver millions annually in new tax dollars to fund public schools, community colleges, and county services. Hermosa will additionally create 1,600 indirect and induced jobs across Santa Cruz County, over 3,100 jobs across the state of Arizona, generate a cumulative \$29 million in local taxes for the county, and add nearly \$1.2 billion to Arizona's economy during construction alone. or years to come.

Hermosa will also strengthen our domestic supply of critical minerals to reduce our reliance on foreign sources, reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions by removing the need to transport these materials abroad, and combat human rights risks by producing these materials safely and sustainably here in the United States with strong labor and environmental protections. Right now, the US is 100% reliant on foreign sources for manganese and produces just 6% of the world's zinc at a single mine in Alaska that is nearing the end of its service life. Hermosa has the potential to responsibly boost our nation's critical mineral security.

Thank you for the opportunity to make our comments.