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Comments: The Hermosa mine, located in Santa Cruz County, Arizona, is critical to the United States for several reasons:

Strategic Mineral Supply: The Hermosa mine contains significant deposits of zinc, lead, silver and manganese. These metals are essential for various industries, including construction, automotive manufacturing, electronics, and renewable energy technologies. Ensuring a stable domestic supply of these minerals is crucial for the country's economic growth and national security.

Reduced Dependence on Imports: Currently, the United States relies heavily on imports to meet its demand for zinc, lead, and silver. Developing domestic sources, such as the Hermosa mine, helps reduce this dependence on foreign countries, thus enhancing the nation's self-sufficiency and resilience to supply disruptions caused by geopolitical tensions or trade conflicts.

Job Creation and Economic Benefits: The operation of the Hermosa mine provides employment opportunities and stimulates economic activity in the surrounding region. It creates jobs in mining, construction, transportation, and other related sectors, contributing to local communities' prosperity and well-being. Hermosa has committed to 80% of jobs coming from Santa Cruz County which is a great example of the mine providing the benefits directly back into the local economy and showing how a great company is great partners with its community.

Environmental and Regulatory Standards: Mining operations in the United States are subject to strict environmental regulations aimed at minimizing ecological impacts and ensuring sustainable resource extraction. The Hermosa mine will adhere to these standards, employing modern technologies and best practices to mitigate environmental risks and protect natural habitats.

Overall, the Hermosa mine plays a critical role in supporting the United States' industrial base, national security, and economic development by providing essential minerals while also complying with environmental and regulatory requirements.