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First name: Justin

Last name: Hamilton

Organization: Hiller Fire

Title: Mining Sales - Southwest Region

Comments: I have and continue to work in mines small and large, throughout the southwest. I have personally seen the positive economic impact that mines have, not only on the communities in which they are situated, but on the region as a whole. As a fire service provider at nearly two dozen mines throughout Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado, I can attest that through these mines we not only provide full time employment for local workers, but skills and training that can be used anywhere in the country, in a field that is in always in demand. Mines are a lifeline to rural communities and a path toward a more prosperous life. These mines are also an essential part of our nation's goal of a cleaner future. A future where we are not dependent on foreign supplies for critical minerals. Specifically in this case manganese, zinc, and copper. All three of these are an irreplaceable part of a greener future. At the present we are heavily dependent on global adversaries for both manganese and zine. South 32 presents us with an excellent opportunity to both bolster our local and national economies, as well secure our own independent supply of these crucial minerals. I am strongly in favor of this mine.