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Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my support for the Hermosa Project.

I am a mining professional and was employed by South32, and its predecessor Arizona Mining, until 2019. Since then I have followed the public information on the project and am glad to see it moving forward.

The safe, environmentally responsible mining of the Taylor and Clark deposits is in the national interest. I am not an expert in Environmental Science and Permitting, but I do know that a mining project that passes muster on USFS land will have minimal impact on the environment, and be under the watch-full eye of the regulatory agencies and the public.

Environmental regulations in the US are among the most stringent in the world. If we do not mine these critical resources in the US where the environment, worker safety, and community are protected, we will acquire these minerals from parts of the world where none of these things are deemed important.

Many of the comments that I read are from people who may be well meaning, but have no knowledge of what is required to permit a major mine such as South32 proposes. And some are opposed to any mine, regardless of environmental protection, regulatory oversight, or economic advantage.

The sign at the Forest boundary on Harshaw Road says "Land of Many Uses". Mining is an important one of those uses. It is possible to mine the Taylor and Clark deposits and, at the same time, protect the environment and respect local sensitivities.

I support this project and recommend that you expedite the EIS and approval of the Project.