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First name: Sydney

Last name: Hay

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Kerwin S. Dewberry, Forest Supervisor

Coronado National Forest

RE: Hermosa Critical Minerals Project

300 West Congress Street

Tucson, AZ, 85701

Subject: Support for South32's Hermosa Critical Minerals Exploration and Mine Plan of Operations

Dear Mr. Dewberry,

I am President of AMIGOS, a trade association of 300-plus member companies that are suppliers to the Arizona mining industry. I am writing to express my support for South32's Hermosa project as vitally important to my members for the jobs it will create. For every direct mining job, the mine will likely create 3 or 4 times more in indirect jobs - the jobs that my organization represents.

Besides the jobs and positive economic impact the mine will have on an area that desperately needs that type of positive growth, there are many other reasons that we support this project. First, it is the only advanced mine development project in the United States that could produce two federally designated critical minerals - manganese and zinc - both of which are essential minerals for powering the nation's clean energy future.

This mine will be operated in an environmentally responsible manner. It is being designed from the ground up with advanced technology and monitoring systems to deliver on the company's sustainability commitments and in response to community interests. With a total footprint of 750 acres, it's a fraction of the footprint of open-pit mines and even other underground mines, and its water use intensity is 75% less than other mines in the region.

In addition, Hermosa will 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 your consideration of our views as the Hermosa project's NEPA process continues.

Most sincerely,

AMIGOS

Sydney Hay, President