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November 29, 2020

Matthew Reece
POA1 SEIS Project Manager
Juneau Ranger District
8510 Mendenhall Loop Road
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Sm.fs.kensington@usda.gov

RE: Coeur Alaska Kensington Mine – Plan of Operations Amendment 1 (POA 1)

Dear Mr. Reece:

I support POA 1 because it will allow the Kensington Mine continued operation in our community. The no Action alternative will have substantiative negative impact on our community.

The Kensington Mine is the second largest private employer in Southeast Alaska. It is also the second highest local property tax payer in the City and Borough of Juneau. It is critical to the continued level of public services in the Juneau community. The employees also provide a significant number of children in our schools. That brings a significant amount of state funding which is based on student numbers. Without those students our educational system would suffer significant loss funding.

Any analysis of the No Action alternative should clearly document the likely economic and educational impacts that would result from early mine closure.

The proposed project is environmentally positive to Southeast Alaska. Over 26 acres of land at the Tailings Treatment Facility will, upon POA 1's closure, be converted into aquatic habitat which will provide additional habitat diversity on a landscape which is dominated by forest. Additionally, POA 1's fish habitat mitigation projects will increase the amount of spawning areas for Dolly Varden and improved passage by improving culverted crossings of streams. These projects will help maintain and improve fish populations. Kensington's commitment to improving the environment is shown in the existing improvements to Slate Lake compared to the environment prior to the opening of the mine 10 years ago.

Finally, I would point out that the project is consistent with the USFS Tongas National Forest Management Plan.

The Kensington Mine has been a good neighbor. They are sensitive to protecting and enhancing our environment, provide good jobs for many Alaskans, contribute positively to the Southeast Alaska economy. Their history of compliance is positive. POA 1 as proposed by the Coeur Alaska Kensington Mine should be selected as the preferred alternative and the mine allowed to proceed with its implementation..

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Dennis L. DeWitt