

STATE OF ALASKA SENATE

2008

Source

SR 8

Senate
Resolve No.

7



Supporting the Kensington Gold Mine project; and commending the United States Forest Service for its environmental change analysis.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

WHEREAS, in resolutions passed in 2005 and 2007, the Alaska State Legislature proclaimed strong support for the Coeur Alaska, Inc., Kensington Gold Mine as an environmentally responsible mining project and has encouraged all federal and state agencies to complete thorough and timely permitting reviews and issue the necessary permits; and

WHEREAS the state has abundant natural resources, particularly mineral resources, that the state seeks to develop in an environmentally responsible manner to benefit all residents of the state; and

WHEREAS the Kensington Gold Mine would create over 300 jobs during the construction of a tailings facility and over 200 long-term, high-paying, year-round jobs when in operation, would have an annual payroll of over \$16,000,000, and would help diversify the struggling economy of Southeast Alaska while protecting the environment; and

WHEREAS the United States Forest Service has completed a thorough analysis of the Kensington modified plan of operations, using research and data from three previous

environmental impact statements and 1,000 environmental and engineering studies that evaluate a tailings plan that is substantially the same as the tailings plan in the modified plan of operations; and

WHEREAS the Juneau district ranger, United States Forest Service, has issued a tentative recommendation that the forest supervisor determine that the modified plan of operations does not constitute a substantial change to the proposed action regarding environmental concerns and has recommended that no further study be required; and

WHEREAS Coeur Alaska, Inc., intends to begin construction of a tailings facility during fall 2008 after receipt of the remaining federal and state permits;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate strongly supports the Kensington Gold Mine project of Coeur Alaska, Inc., as environmentally responsible, and commends the United States Forest Service for its competent and thorough environmental change analysis, which satisfies 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq. (National Environmental Policy Act of 1969) and allows the Kensington Gold Mine to move forward in the permitting process and toward production.