



January 5, 2022

Lawrence County Commissioners
90 Sherman Street
Deadwood, SD 57732

Dear Sir\Madam:

As a Professor and Head of the Mining Engineering and Management Department here at South Dakota Mines, I am writing to you with respect to Coeur Wharf's application for a permit to extend their mine life.

Wharf has been a long-time partner and supporter of our activities here in the department and at the school. Their support includes:

- They are a member of the department's Industrial Advisory Board providing input on program offerings, student recruitment and other strategic initiatives.
- They have provided scholarships for our students and financial support for department activities.
- They hire students for summer and full-time positions.
- They provide tours for our summer camps and courses.
- They are an active partner in the recently established Catlab Minestar Consortium research initiative that is a 10-year program and will directly support research and training of undergraduate and graduate students.
- They provide data, projects and guest lectures for courses that the department offers.

Overall, Wharf is an incredibly valuable partner to the school and the department. Our connection with them is part of our overall growth strategy to increase our undergraduate and graduate student numbers and to make our school known as an innovation center for the development of mining technology. Thus, the extension of the operating life of the mine is extremely valuable to the school and department. Needless to say, I fully support granting Wharf an extension to their mine life; as the benefits to our department, the school and community are substantial.

Sincerely,

Robert Hall, P.Eng.
Professor and Head MEM