



June 17, 2019

RE: Support Huffman Amendment (#63) to Minibus appropriations bill

Dear Honorable Members of the U.S. House of Representatives,

We are contacting you today in support of Representative Huffman's Amendment (#63) to the Energy and Water Appropriations portion of the Minibus appropriations bill that, if passed, would prevent further funding for the Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) review of the Clean Water Act 404 permit application for the proposed Pebble mine. If constructed, the mine would have immediate impacts to the Bristol Bay area, our businesses and a fishing industry that supports thousands of American jobs and is the source for about half the world's supply of sockeye salmon.

As sportfishing lodge owners, guides, bear viewing outfitters, lodge operators, air taxi business owners and organizations who are reliant on the clean water, healthy habitat and the wild characteristics of the Bristol Bay region, we have watched the Pebble mine closely over the past decade and a half. As we have learned more, we have become increasingly concerned.

Recently, there have been numerous substantial examples demonstrating why the current review process conducted by the Corps lacks the basic elements necessary for robust, scientifically sound decision making when it comes to assessing the impacts the proposed Pebble mine. The Corps is not doing adequate job and the public process is failing Alaskan businesses like ours, as well as Americans across the country who care about Bristol Bay. Until the Corps and Pebble can meet some very basic standards, such as: requiring Pebble to produce their promised economic feasibility study, fully consider the future expansion that Northern Dynasty Minerals touts to investors and the associated reasonably foreseeable impacts, remedies the gaps in baseline data, and provides thorough and ongoing mitigation and water management plans, the process should not be allowed to proceed. To be frank, it should have never advanced this far in the first place, it's a waste of our valuable time and taxpayer money.

We are unified in our staunch opposition to the proposed Pebble mine because of the direct threat it has to our businesses. We are not alone in our opposition. Millions of anglers and hunters from Alaska and around the country agree that the proposed Pebble mine is a uniquely risky project that has no place in Bristol Bay - the stakes are too high in such an important region.

Bristol Bay's salmon fisheries are a world-class, irreplaceable resource of growing importance, and should be treated as such. In light of the Corps' shortcomings, and the continued false promises by the Pebble Partnership, we commend Congressman Huffman for introducing this amendment. The Army Corps of Engineers and the Pebble Partnership should be held accountable to meet the robust standards that Bristol Bay deserves and we encourage our elected officials to support Amendment #63 to the Energy and Water Appropriations Act (H.R. 2740).

Sincerely,

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