



June 21, 2016

Dear Congressman Bishop,

Bristol Bay supports a proud sporting tradition, something we know you believe in just as deeply as we do. As an Alaskan, and someone who has fished in Bristol Bay, you already know how important wild salmon is to our daily lives and our businesses here. Without salmon, our businesses wouldn't exist. Although mining, like fishing, is an important part of Alaska's economy and history – the hard-rock mining track record shows a mine the size and type of the proposed Pebble Mine has never been successfully built, operated, and closed without harming nearby resources. Bristol Bay is not the place to try this kind of development for the first time, the risks are simply too great. As Alaskan business owners and sportsmen and women who rely on Bristol Bay's rivers to make a living, we are writing to ask you to stand up for our jobs and industry, not grant favors to a foreign mining company.

Over 70 sport fishing lodges and guiding operations are based in the region. These businesses purchase supplies in Alaska, hire local services and contribute significantly to the local and regional economy. Already the sport fishing industry supports over 1200 jobs and there are increasing efforts to further strengthen the economic and employment ties in the region. Each year over 50,000 sport anglers, two-thirds of whom are Alaskans, spend their hard earned dollars on fishing trips to Bristol Bay to catch trophy rainbow trout and salmon. Why? Bristol Bay is special even by Alaska standards and is one of the last places in the world where you can catch fish of this size and quantity. It is simply a one-of-a-kind, world-class experience that anglers around the globe dream about.

Upwards of eighty percent of people in the Bristol Bay region oppose the development of the Pebble Mine because protecting Bristol Bay's fish and wildlife is good for Alaska's businesses, jobs and way of life. It is also noteworthy that a majority of Alaskans across the state oppose the mine and would like to see protections for this renewable resource put in place immediately. The region is widely recognized as one of the last remaining strongholds for healthy salmon populations in North America and the world...something that all Alaskans can reap the benefits of and stand next to with pride.

We expect our elected leaders to stand up for Alaskan jobs and businesses. That's why we were extremely disappointed to learn about a hearing discussing the Pebble Mine will occur in the House Committee on Natural Resources this week. The Committee is giving Pebble proponents, with multi-million dollar bonuses at stake, a political stage to promote a mine that Alaskans don't want.

The Pebble Partnership is currently spending all of their available resources attempting to circumvent the will of Alaskans and thousands of sportsmen around the country. But what you and your colleagues need to understand is that Alaskans and Americans cannot be bought by Canadian companies and their well-paid lobbyists. This mine is a direct threat to our businesses and we will continue to do whatever we can to ensure Bristol Bay's salmon and rivers, a sportsmen's paradise, are protected.

Our former Republican Senator Ted Stevens called this project "the wrong mine in the wrong place." An unprecedented coalition of Alaska Native Tribes, commercial fishermen, anglers and hunters, chefs and outdoor enthusiasts have come together to work toward protecting the salmon resource we all depend on.

We are growing tired of Washington, D.C. Congressional committees throwing roadblocks in the way of protections for Bristol Bay that thousands of Alaskans, and millions of American's have asked for – at the bidding of a foreign-owned mining company, no less.

Sincerely,

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cc: Congressman Don Young