



April 16, 2014

Senator David Vitter, Louisiana
Senator Joe Manchin, West Virginia
Senator Lisa Murkowski, Alaska
Senator Mitch McConnell, Kentucky
Senator James Risch, Idaho

RE: Sportsman Support for Bristol Bay, Alaska

Dear Senators:

It was with great disappointment that we read your recent legislation to eliminate the EPA's current work to protect Bristol Bay, Alaska for future generations of hunters and anglers. Stopping the Pebble Mine at Bristol Bay's headwaters is one of the top priorities for the sportsmen community across the U.S.; a fact that we hope is not lost on Senators who represent not only many sportsmen, but some of the best hunting and fishing areas in the country. While we do not always agree with the EPA or its actions, in the case of Bristol Bay, the EPA is acting to protect productive fish and game habitat, thousands of jobs, and \$1.5 billion in annual economic impact.

In fact, over 1,000 sportsmen's organizations and businesses have signed a letter in support of the EPA's efforts in Bristol Bay. They understand that North America's largest open pit mine does not belong at the headwaters of the world's largest wild sockeye salmon fishery – the same waters that support at least 29 species of fish and the same habitat where sportsmen can find more than 40 mammal species (including brown bear, caribou, and moose) and over 190 types of birds. As you may know, the EPA's comprehensive scientific study of Bristol Bay and its watershed determined that mines like Pebble would destroy up to 94 miles of salmon spawning streams and 5,350 acres of wetlands, ponds, and lakes in the Bristol Bay region. And that's even without a likely accident.

Moreover, Bristol Bay is an economic engine. While the Pebble Mine's backers can only promise perhaps 1,000, temporary jobs, Bristol Bay already supports 14,000 jobs that will last forever with minimal protection and upkeep of the watershed. While many of these are commercial fishing-related jobs, a significant number are supported by the lodge owners, fishing and hunting guides, pilots, outfitters, and others in the Bristol Bay region who rely on its outdoor

economy. Their livelihoods must be considered when thinking about the future of the Pebble Mine.

We are attaching the aforementioned letter from over 1,000 sportsmen's groups and businesses to reiterate the depth and breadth of support protecting Bristol Bay enjoys from hunters, anglers and sporting businesses across the country. They join commercial fishermen, Alaska Natives, jewelers, conservationists, chefs and restaurant owners, the investment community, and religious leaders who believe that the Pebble Mine is simply the wrong mine in the wrong place.

As you continue your work in the Senate, we hope you keep our views in mind when considering the future of Bristol Bay and its valuable fishery. Bristol Bay is worth protecting for future generations; we hope you will agree.

Sincerely,

American Fly Fishing Trade Association
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
Berkley Conservation Institute
Bull Moose Sportsmen's Alliance
Campfire Club of America
Dallas Safari Club
Delta Waterfowl Foundation
International Federation of Fly Fishers
National Wildlife Federation
Orion - The Hunters Institute
Pope and Young Club
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Union Sportsmen's Alliance
Wildlife Forever

Cc: Members of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee