

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hal Rogers  
Chairman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
2406 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
503 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
2365 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 2051

April 3, 2015

Dear Chairmen Cochran, Ranking Member Mikulski, Chairman Rogers, and Ranking Member Lowey:

On behalf of the millions of hunters, anglers, outdoor recreation groups, professional and scientific societies and related business we represent, we urge you to allow the administrative process underway at EPA and other agencies concerning the proposed Pebble Mine to continue.

There is an appropriate role for federal-level deliberation and analysis of the varied views and scientific aspects of the land and water use decisions – and especially so in this case. The proposed Pebble Mine presents a great risk to a vast area in Alaska containing sensitive natural resources that should be evaluated and addressed by state and federal experts.

The proposed Pebble Mine in Bristol Bay poses significant and potentially long-lasting threats to one of the world's foremost sport fishing and hunting regions. Hard-rock mining, and the related infrastructure build-out, would impair fish habitat, wildlife habitat and recreational areas. Pebble Mine would produce an estimated 2.5 to 10 billion tons of waste containing elements such as copper and other heavy metals that would threaten several fishery areas including spawning and breeding grounds for world-renowned populations of salmon and trophy rainbow trout. Southwest Alaska has also been well-known as the best brown bear, moose and caribou combination hunting area in the state for many decades.

Our members nationwide and in Alaska have called on us to protect this sport fishing and hunting destination that is unrivaled in America and perhaps the world, for this and future generations of sportsmen and women. Sport fishing in Bristol Bay contributes more than \$60 million annually to the total economic benefit of the Bristol Bay fishing economy, which is over \$1.5 billion; anglers looking for "once in a lifetime" sport fishing experiences on rivers such as the Nushagak, Kaktuli and Kvichak support more than 800 full and part-time jobs. Though remote, on a yearly basis up to 65,000 visitors come to Bristol Bay for recreational opportunities to fish, hunt, and view wildlife.

For these reasons, we ask that Congress allow the continuation of work by federal agencies with an interest and role in the future of Bristol Bay's tremendously productive lands and waters.

Sincerely,

Boone & Crockett Club  
Camp Fire Club of America  
Conservation Force  
Dallas Safari Club  
Delta Waterfowl  
Houston Safari Club  
Izaak Walton League of America  
National Wild Turkey Federation  
North American Grouse Partnership  
Orion-The Hunter's Institute  
Pheasants Forever  
Pope & Young Club  
Quail Forever  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership  
The Wildlife Society  
Wildlife Forever  
Wildlife Management Institute  
Wild Sheep Foundation