

*Subject: EPA-R10-OW-2014-0505 - Protect Bristol Bay*

*Dear Administrator McCarthy:*

*I support the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) efforts to protect Bristol Bay, Alaska, from the proposed Pebble Mine. Thank you for undertaking the scientific review during the three year Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment process.*

*As a grocery retailer with 84 stores in the northeast and mid-Atlantic regions of the United States, we spend our days sourcing high quality, safe food for consumers. We cannot do this alone; it is teamwork as we partner with responsible suppliers, food safety and quality assurance experts, reliable distribution systems, amongst others. As a team we must all follow the local, state, and federal regulations to ensure that the food in the US system is safe to consume, responsibly manufactured, and legally acquired. We highly prize the three pillars of sustainability when making sourcing decisions – our product decisions must consider the future of the environment, the protection of mankind involved, and the economic stability of our company.*

*The analysis in the risk assessment underscores the importance of the Bristol Bay in the areas of ecology, economy, and culture. The placement of a large-scale mineral extraction mine within the Bristol Bay endangers the home of one of the largest wild salmon populations in the world. Any failure, no matter how minute, has the potential to destroy the ecology, economy, and culture of the area as well as the wealth of seafood that the Alaskan government and generations of local fishermen have worked so hard to protect. Wild salmon is one of the top seafood choices of US consumers and provides a protein source that is rich in nutrients difficult to find in other foods.*

*We ask the EPA to use its authority under Section 404 (c) of the federal Clean Water Act to protect rivers and wetlands important for ecosystems. Please prohibit mining activities in the Bristol Bay region.*

*Carl Salamone,  
Vice President, Seafood Sustainability  
Wegmans Food Markets, Inc.*