

# COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN FOR BRISTOL BAY

Commercial Fishermen for Bristol Bay  
PO Box 1252  
Dillingham Alaska, 99576  
October 30, 2020

Dear Elected officials of Alaska,

On behalf of Bristol Bay's commercial fishermen and thousands of others who support protection of Bristol Bay, we are writing out of grave concern regarding the Governor of Alaska Mike Dunleavy's continued and unapologetic advocacy for the development of the proposed Pebble Mine in Bristol Bay. The Pebble Mine poses one of the single largest threats to Alaska's seafood industry and economy - not to mention a way of life that has existed for thousands of years - which is why 62% of Alaskans are strongly opposed to the Pebble Mine. We respectfully request that Alaska's Senators and State Legislature act to ensure that Alaska's best interests are protected and that you, our elected officials, restore public confidence in the Pebble permitting process both at the state and federal levels. "The Pebble Tapes" reveal an inappropriate level of collaboration between the Pebble Limited Partnership and the Office of the Governor, and the Governor's appointees that we find not only offensive to Alaska's fishing industry, but also ethically questionable. It is time for the State Legislature to take action to restore trust in our state government and protect an economic engine that generates renewable revenue for our state and income for thousands of Alaskans.

Bristol Bay is the cornerstone of Alaska's seafood industry, and its significance has grown in recent years as other fisheries around the state have experienced record-low returns. Bristol Bay's salmon fishery provides 14,765 jobs, employing fishermen from nearly every US state. One third of working age people in the Bristol Bay region are employed in the fishing industry. Fishing fees and tax revenue pay for the management of Bristol Bay's fishery and then some creating over \$15 million in annual revenue for local government entities, and generating \$1.5 billion in annual economic activity. And yet, Bristol Bay is one of our state's most endangered salmon fisheries. For nearly two decades, the Pebble Mine has created economic uncertainty for our fleet, processors, seafood buyers, and the thousands of other businesses that depend on Bristol Bay's salmon runs. For nearly two decades, Bristol Bay's thousands of commercial fishermen, along with sport and subsistence fishermen, have unified in steadfast opposition to the Pebble Mine.

Despite overwhelming public opposition to this risky project, Governor Dunleavy and appointed officials have helped fast-track it through the federal permitting process. The recent Pebble Tapes have pulled the curtain all the way back on what CNN and other news outlets have been reporting for over a year: Dunleavy is abusing his elected position to advocate on behalf of a Canadian mining company instead of the Alaskans who elected him into office. Recently released Pebble Tapes recorded by the Environmental Investigation Agency make it clear that Pebble was expecting a final Record of Decision as early as September. Governor Dunleavy's recent letter to Alaska's legislative leadership underscores his unwavering support and collaboration with the Pebble Limited Partnership. Echoing Pebble's longtime talking points the Governor stated that Bristol Bay is "a region suffering from generational

poverty and chronic lack of economic options.” We take offense with Governor Dunleavy’s portrayal of Bristol Bay. This claim by Governor Dunleavy is not based on any facts and illustrates his favor of a foreign, untruthful, and destructive mining company over Bristol Bay’s thriving commercial fishery and the sustainable economic activity that it generates for the region and our state.

Governor Dunleavy is acting contrary to the will and interest of Alaskans by advocating for the benefit of a single Canadian company. Rather than relying on a Canadian mining company for talking points, the state of Alaska agencies and Governor should advocate for Alaskans and Alaska’s constitutional sustainable yield principle. An objective review of science and facts show that the Pebble Mine would have adverse impacts to Bristol Bay, and the people who depend on Alaska’s most abundant and sustainable salmon runs. The Governor’s advocacy for the development of this project is directly contrary to the public interest on both a regional and state level.

Governor Dunleavy has gone out of his way and outside of the public process in advocating for Pebble Mine since taking office, appointing allies to the mine in key permitting and fisheries positions, forwarding ghost written letters from the company to federal agencies and officials and now most recently evangelizing the mine as the solution to systemic issues in rural Alaska. This is unacceptable.

We need action at the State and Federal level to protect Bristol Bay, the largest economic driver and employer within the Alaska seafood industry which employs more than any other private sector. Bristol Bay continues to thrive, yet we could lose it all because of a foreign mining company and a Governor who has failed Alaskans. We respectfully request that the following actions be initiated to restore public confidence in the Pebble permitting process and protect over 14,000 fishing jobs currently at stake:

1. A pause of the current federal permitting process until the above issues and questions have been fully addressed. It is time for a suspension to any and all activity on this permit application by state and federal agencies via State and Federal Legislative Appropriations.
2. Support for immediate EPA exercise of its authority under Clean Water Act § 404(c) to address Army Corp’s determination that Pebble Mine as proposed would have adverse impacts on Bristol Bay’s watershed.
3. Ethics investigations and public hearings in the State of Alaska that address the questionable activity and collusion revealed in the Pebble Tapes and ensure that state agencies and politicians are acting within the regulatory framework and law of the permitting process. If necessary we would request elected officials and political appointees found to have conflicts of interests to follow the lead of EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler and recuse themselves from the State’s involvement and decisions in the Pebble permitting process.

We were grateful and inspired to hear Senator Murkowski state before AFN that she is interested in working towards long term protections for Bristol Bay. We were also encouraged to hear Senator Dan Sullivan clarify that he believes this mine should not be permitted. Governor Dunleavy’s relationship with the Pebble Limited Partnership and “The Pebble Tapes” underscore the need for the above actions to be commenced immediately as important and necessary first steps towards protecting our nation’s number one source of wild, sustainable salmon.

*Sincerely,*

*Commercial Fishermen for Bristol Bay Advisors:*

Katherine Carscallen  
Executive Director, CFBB  
F/V Sea Hawk  
PO Box 1252  
Dillingham, AK 99576  
(907) 843-2006

Hattie Albecker  
Ugashik Set Netter  
101 Olga Lane  
Ugashik, Alaska 99613  
(907) 744-6768  
aleutgal49@gmail.com

Erica Madison  
Madison's Salmon Co.  
3753 West 22th Ave  
Anchorage, Alaska 99517  
(907)306-0803  
ericamadison@gmail.com

Heidi Dunlap  
F/V Toonces  
Wild Salmon Company  
26 Young St  
Asheville NC 28801  
(828)216-2565  
thewildsalmonco@gmail.com

John Fairbanks  
F/V SUMO  
437 15<sup>th</sup> St.  
Bellingham WA, 98225  
(360) 961-3370  
john@johnlfairbanks.com

Michael Jackson  
F/V Kelley J  
615 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
(360)-319-2421  
Powderhino@aol.com

Michael Friccero  
Rainy Dawn Services  
F/V Miss Gina  
Kodiak, Alaska 99615  
(907) 539-1320  
mike.clarion@gmail.com

Holly Wysocki  
Nushagak Bay Set Netter  
100 Aleknagik Lake Road  
Dillingham, Alaska 99576  
(907)250-7755  
combinequeen@gmail.com

Mark Niver  
F/V Salmon Slayer  
955 Loch Ness Dr.  
Wasilla Alaska  
(907)232-8167  
[markniver@yahoo.com](mailto:markniver@yahoo.com)

Melaine Brown  
Naknek Set Netter  
Juneau, Alaska  
(907) 224-1169  
Alaskamel@yahoo.com

Delivered electronically to:  
Senator Lisa Murkowski  
Senator Dan Sullivan  
Congressman Don Young  
State of Alaska Legislators  
Governor Mike Dunleavy