



Administrator  
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
 Washington, DC 20460

Dear Environmental Protection Agency Administrator,

We, the undersigned Bristol Bay, Alaska lodge and guiding business owners thank the EPA for the thoroughness, transparency and extensive scientific review that went into the most recent version of the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment. This comprehensive scientific assessment presents strong evidence of the destructive impacts large-scale mining could have on the Bristol Bay region and makes a powerful case for proactive protection of Bristol Bay's world-class wild salmon and trout resource via the Clean Water Act.

Bristol Bay is one of world's preeminent sportfishing destinations, attracting anglers from around the globe who seek the region's beauty, remoteness and its phenomenal fishing. Our operations, which provide jobs and annual revenues in excess of \$100 million, are wholly dependent on Bristol Bay's renewable fishery resource and its pristine habitat. The threat posed by Pebble and other proposed large-scale mining operations to Bristol Bay's waters and wilderness, in turn, poses a clear and present threat to our businesses.

As people who spend our summers on the lakes, rivers and streams of the Bristol Bay Watershed, we were not surprised to see the strong scientific evidence that confirms that salmon will be impacted by large-scale mining in the region. Even if nothing goes wrong 90 miles salmon streams and 4800 acres of wetlands will be completely destroyed. Roads will be built through a currently wild area – the experience that visitors to the region seek will no longer exist. The proposed Pebble Mine poses numerous significant and potentially long-lasting impacts to recreation in the region.

We commend the EPA for being the neutral third party evaluating the impacts that large-scale mining could have on the region in a fair and balanced way. By using Pebble's own publically available plans on file with both the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, you demonstrate that you are taking a balanced approach by basing the study on the mining industries own proposals and not 'fantasy' plans pulled out of thin air.

We also were happy to see you point out the importance of maintaining diversity to produce a stable fishery. This is particularly important to our industry. We depend on a diverse portfolio of rivers, lakes and streams to meet guest's needs. Some years, particular rivers fish better than others but in Bristol Bay we can expect that regardless of the ups and downs there are enough healthy systems out there that we will always be able to find the fishing experience my clients are seeking.

We also appreciate the increased focus on non-salmon species in the latest draft of the Watershed Assessment. Salmon are the lifeblood of the region but rainbow trout, grayling, and char are extremely important to the sport angling industry and Bristol Bay boasts some of the best char and rainbow trout fishing in the world.

Although the EPA has been criticized recently by some segments of business and industry for alleged regulatory overreach, we want to make it abundantly clear that as Alaska-based businesses and employers, we believe your use of the Clean Water Act to protect Bristol Bay's renewable resources from irreparable harm is the right thing to do, right now. The science is crystal clear – large-scale mining will have unacceptable adverse effects on the fishery, our businesses and the thousands of jobs the fishery industry supports.

With so much at stake, it is clear that we cannot risk Bristol Bay's commercial fishery and recreation industry (which can provide for generations) in favor of a short-sighted mining scenario that will provide short-term jobs and long-term waste.

We respectfully but firmly ask that you immediately initiate use of the Clean Water Act to restrict inappropriate development activities such as the proposed Pebble Mine, while allowing reasonable development that is compatible with existing uses to proceed in the Bristol Bay region.

Thank you for your work and for your attention to our concerns.

Sincerely,

**Alagnak Lodge**

Tony Behm and Scott Struznik  
King Salmon, AK

**Alaska Sportsman's Bear Trail Lodge**

Nanci Morris Lyon – Managing Partner  
King Salmon, AK

**Alaska Rainbow Lodge**

Ron and Sharon Hayes  
King Salmon, Alaska 99613

**KATMAILAND, INC.**

Sonny Peterson  
Anchorage / Katmai, AK

**Rainbow River Lodge**

Chad Hewitt / Managing Partner  
Iliamna, AK

**Angler's Alibi**

John Perry – Owner  
King Salmon, AK

**Grizzly Skins of Alaska**

Rocky Harrison – Co-owner  
King Salmon, AK

**Alaska Rainbow Adventures**

Paul Hansen  
Wasilla, AK

**Alaska's Legend Lodge**

Jack Johnson  
Iliamna, AK

**Alaska West**

Andrew Bennett - President  
Quinhagak, AK

**Tikchik Narrows Lodge**

Bud Hodson - Owner  
Anchorage/Dillingham, AK

**Alaska Alpine Adventures LLC**

Dan Oberlatz  
Anchorage / Port Alsworth, AK

**Alaska Fly Anglers, Inc**

John Hohl  
Soldotna, AK

**Alaska's Enchanted Lake Lodge**

Daren Erickson – Owner  
Anchorage, AK

**EPIC Angling & Adventure, LLC**

Rus Schwausch  
King Salmon, AK / Austin, TX

**Alaska's Valhalla Lodge**

Kirk Gay – Owner  
Anchorage, AK

**Blue Fly Bed & Breakfast and Guide Service**

Patricia Edel  
King Salmon, AK

**Bear Claw Lodge**

Rob and Lisa Fuentes  
Aleknagik, AK

**Kulik Lodge**

Pete Raynor - Manager  
Katmai / Anchorage

**Brightwater Alaska, Inc**

Chuck Ash  
Anchorage, AK

**Alaska Sportsman's Lodge**

Brian Kraft  
Kvichak River/Anchorage, AK

**Crystal Creek Lodge**

Daniel J. Michels  
King Salmon/ Wasilla, AK

**Ouzel Expeditions Inc.**

Sharon & Paul Allred  
Girdwood, AK

**Royal Coachman & Copper River Lodges**

Pat Vermillion – Owner  
Dillingham, AK / Bozeman, MT

**Bristol Bay Lodge**

Steve Laurent  
Dillingham, AK / Ellensburg, WA

**Women's Flyfishing®**

Cecilia "Pudge" Kleinkauf  
Anchorage, AK

**Alaska Fishing Unlimited, Inc**  
Port Alsworth, AK

**Frontier River Guides**  
Marty Decker  
Anchorage, AK

**No See Um Lodge, Inc.**  
John Holman  
Kvichak River / Wasilla, AK

**Beyond Boundaries Expeditions**  
Mike Trotter – Owner/Operator  
Sitka, AK

**Blue Mountain Lodge**  
Tracy & Linda Vrem – Owners  
Becharof Lake, AK

**Bristol Bay Adventures**  
Michael Addiego - Owner  
Dillingham, AK

**Cinder River Lodge**  
Lance and Nikki Kronberger – Owners  
Eagle River, AK

**Chinook Tours**  
Felix Schneider – Owner  
Anchorage, AK

**Bristol Bay Sportfishing, Inc**  
Jerry Jacques - Owner  
Illiamna, AK

**Goodnews River Lodge**  
Kim, Faith and Mike Gorton  
Togiak, AK

**Wild River Guide Co.**  
Mark Rutherford  
Dillingham, AK

**Rapids Camp Lodge**  
Amy Herrig - Owner/Operator  
King Salmon, AK

**Reel Wilderness Adventures, Inc**  
David Taylor – President  
Dillingham, AK

**Togiak River Outfitters, LLC**  
Larry Lund – Owner  
Togiak, AK

**Fishing Bear Lodge**  
Justin Johns - Owner  
Dillingham, AK

**Igiugig Lodge, LLC**  
Brad Waitman – Owner Operator  
Igiugig, AK

**Jake's Nushagak Salmon Camp**  
Eli Huffman – Owner/Manager  
Dillingham, AK

**Katmai Air, LLC**  
Raymond F. & Mariann Peterson  
Katmai, AK/ Anchorage, AK

**Alaska Fly Out**  
Cory Luoma - Owner  
Whitefish, MT

CC:  
President Barack Obama  
The White House  
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