

ALABAMA RIVERS ALLIANCE * ALAMOSA RIVERKEEPER * ALASKA COMMUNITY ACTION ON TOXICS * ALASKA ENVIRONMENT * ALASKA WILDERNESS LEAGUE * ALASKA WILDLIFE ALLIANCE * ALASKANS TAKE A STAND * AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY * AMIGOS DE BOLSA CHICA * ANTHROPOCENE ALLIANCE * AQUASHICOLA/POHOPOCO WATERSHED CONSERVANCY * ASSOCIATION OF NORTHWEST STEELHEADERS * ATCHAFALAYA BASINKEEPER * BACKCOUNTRY HUNTERS AND ANGLERS * BAYOU CITY WATERKEEPER * BLACK HILLS CLEAN WATER ALLIANCE * BLACK WARRIOR RIVERKEEPER * BOZEMAN BIRDERS * BRISTOL BAY HERITAGE LAND TRUST * BRISTOL BAY REGIONAL SEAFOOD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION * BROOKS RANGE COUNCIL * CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY * CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & POLICY * CITIZENS AGAINST WIDENING THE INDUSTRIAL CANAL * CITIZENS COMMITTEE TO COMPLETE THE REFUGE * COLLIER COUNTY WATERKEEPER * COLUMBIA RIVER CRAB FISHERMAN'S ASSOCIATION * COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN FOR BRISTOL BAY * COMMITTEE ON THE MIDDLE FORK VERMILION RIVER * COOK INLETKEEPER * CREATION JUSTICE MINISTRIES * DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE * DESCHUTES ESTUARY RESTORATION TEAM * DON'T GAS THE MEADOWLANDS COALITION * EARTH ETHICS, INC. * EARTHJUSTICE * EARTHWORKS * ENDANGERED HABITATS LEAGUE * ENVIRONMENT AMERICA * ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY (US) * ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INFORMATION CENTER * FAIRBANKS CLIMATE ACTION COALITION * FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION * FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL * FRIENDS OF BLACKWATER, INC. * FRIENDS OF MCNEIL RIVER * FRIENDS OF THE EARTH * GLEN ELLYN SUSTAINABILITY * GREAT EGG HARBOR WATERSHED ASSOCIATION * GREENPEACE USA * HEALTHY OCEAN COALITION * HOWLING FOR WOLVES * HUDSON RIVERKEEPER * IDAHO RIVERS UNITED * ILLINOIS COUNCIL OF TROUT UNLIMITED * INLAND OCEAN COALITION * KANSAS CITY ZOO * KENTUCKY WATERWAYS ALLIANCE * KLAMATH FOREST ALLIANCE * LEVEES.ORG * LAKE ERIE WATERKEEPER * LEAD AGENCY, INC. * LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS * MALACH CONSULTING * MARINE CONSERVATION INSTITUTE * MILL CREEK ALLIANCE * MISSION BLUE * MISSOURI CONFLUENCE WATERKEEPER * MN DIVISION - IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA * MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM * MULTICULTURAL ALLIANCE FOR A SAFE ENVIRONMENT * MYSTIC AQUARIUM * NATIONAL AQUARIUM * NATIONAL MISSISSIPPI RIVER MUSEUM & AQUARIUM * NATIONAL OCEAN PROTECTION COALITION * NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION * NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION * NATIVE AMERICAN RIGHTS FUND * NATURAL HERITAGE INSTITUTE * NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL * NEBRASKA WILDLIFE FEDERATION * NORTHEASTERN MINNESOTANS FOR WILDERNESS * NYC H2O * OCEANA * OKANOGAN HIGHLANDS ALLIANCE * PATAGONIA * PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES * POTOMAC RIVERKEEPER NETWORK * PROGRESSIVE LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE OF NEVADA * RESTORE AMERICA'S ESTUARIES * RIVERKEEPER * ROUGE RIVERKEEPER * SACRAMENTO RIVER COUNCIL * SALMONSTATE * SATILLA RIVERKEEPER * SAVE OUR WILD SALMON COALITION * SAVE THE SCENIC SANTA RITAS * SAVE THE SOUND * SEATTLE AQUARIUM * SENECA LAKE GUARDIAN * SEVERN RIVERKEEPER PROGRAM * SIERRA CLUB * SILVER VALLEY COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER * SOUTH YUBA RIVER CITIZENS LEAGUE * STAND UP ALASKA * SUWANNEE RIVERKEEPER * TENNESSEE RIVERKEEPER * THE ALASKA CENTER * THE CONSERVATION FUND * THE NATURE CONSERVANCY * THE OCEAN PROJECT * THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY * WATAUGA RIVERKEEPER * WATER-CULTURE INSTITUTE * WATERKEEPER ALLIANCE * WATERKEEPERS CHESAPEAKE * WATERWAY ADVOCATES * WILD SALMON CENTER * WILL DILG CHAPTER, IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA * WINYAH RIVERS ALLIANCE * WORLD WILDLIFE FUND * YELLOW DOG WATERSHED PRESERVE

January 11, 2023

Via Email

Honorable Radhika Fox
Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20460
radhika.fox@epa.gov

Re: Supporting EPA's Issuance of a Clean Water Act Final Determination that Protects Bristol Bay from the Pebble Mine

Dear Assistant Administrator Fox:

On behalf of the 122 undersigned organizations, representing tens of millions of members and supporters from across the country, we write to commend EPA Region 10 Regional Administrator Casey Sixkiller for issuing a Recommended Determination for the Pebble Deposit Area under Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act that, if finalized, would prohibit the Pebble

Mine and restrict future mining of the Pebble deposit.¹ We urge EPA to promptly issue a Final Determination.

This letter supports and amplifies repeated requests from United Tribes of Bristol Bay (UTBB) and others, including our organizations, calling on EPA to finalize strong and durable protections for Bristol Bay and the people who depend on it:

After twenty years of Pebble hanging over our heads, the Biden Administration has the opportunity to follow through on its commitments by finalizing comprehensive, durable protections for our region as soon as possible.²

Bristol Bay is home to the world's largest wild sockeye salmon fishery, generating \$2.2 billion annually, supporting 15,000 American jobs, supplying 57 percent of the world's wild sockeye salmon, and sustaining Indigenous communities for thousands of years.³ Last summer alone the fishery produced an unprecedented run of more than 78 million fish. Yet the Pebble Mine continues to risk it all.

The facts, science, and administrative record—as well as millions of people over the past decade—overwhelmingly support a 404(c) determination that protects Bristol Bay's headwaters from the Pebble Mine. Our groups urge EPA to expeditiously issue a Final Determination that ensures strong, durable, and comprehensive protection for Bristol Bay—and the people and wildlife it supports.

Sincerely,

Jack West, Policy and Advocacy Director
Alabama Rivers Alliance

Cindy Medina, Alamosa Riverkeeper
Alamosa Riverkeeper

Pamela Miller, Executive Director
Alaska Community Action on Toxics

Dyani Chapman, State Director
Alaska Environment

¹ *Recommended Determination of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 Pursuant to Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act Pebble Deposit Area, Southwest Alaska* (Dec. 2022), <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-12/Pebble-Deposit-Area-404c-RD-Dec2022.pdf>.

² Statement by Alannah Hurley, UTBB Executive Director, *Bristol Bay Tribes Urge EPA to End the Threat of Pebble Mine* (Dec. 1 2022), <https://www.utbb.org/press-releases-archive/for-immediate-release-bristol-bay-tribes-urge-epa-to-end-the-threat-of-pebble-mine>.

³ McKinley Research Group, *The Economic Benefits of Bristol Bay Salmon* (Feb. 2021), https://stoppebbleminenow.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Final-Economic-Benefit-of-Bristol-Bay-Salmon-3_17_21.pdf

Andy Moderow, State Director
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Alaska Wildlife Alliance

Erin Jackson-Hill, President
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Trish Rolfe, Executive Director
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Citizens Against Widening the Industrial Canal

Carin High, Co-Chair
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Columbia River Crab Fisherman's Association

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Florida Wildlife Federation

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Fly Fishers International

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Friends of Blackwater, Inc.

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Friends of McNeil River

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Friends of the Earth

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Melissa Samet, Senior Water Resources Counsel
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Gerald H. Meral, Ph.D., Director, California Water Program
Natural Heritage Institute

Taryn Kiekow Heimer, Senior Advocate & Deputy Director of Marine Mammal Protection
Natural Resources Defense Council

Mike Coe, President
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Matt Norton, Policy Director
Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness

Matt Malina, Director & Founder
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Susan Murray, Deputy Vice President, US Pacific
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Sarah Kliegman, co-Executive Director
Okanogan Highlands Alliance

Meghan Wolf, Environmental Activism Manager
Patagonia

Rev. Sandra L. Strauss, Director of Advocacy & Ecumenical Outreach
Pennsylvania Council of Churches

Nancy Stoner, President
Potomac Riverkeeper Network

Sarah Wochele, Mining Justice Organizer
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada

Daniel Hayden, President & CEO
Restore America's Estuaries

George Jackman, Senior Habitat Restoration Manager
Riverkeeper

Emily Bowes, Conservation Director
Rogue Riverkeeper

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Tim Bristol, Executive Director
SalmonState

Chris Bertrand, Riverkeeper and Executive Director
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Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition

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Suwannee Riverkeeper

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Karlin Itchoak, Alaska State Director
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Andy Hill, Watauga Riverkeeper
Watauga Riverkeeper

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Bart Mihailovich, Organizing Director
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Robin Broder, Deputy Director
Waterkeepers Chesapeake

Caleb Merendino, Co-Executive Director
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Emily Anderson, Alaska Director
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Barry Drazkowski, President
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Debra Buffkin, Executive Director
Winyah Rivers Alliance

Rose Luttenberger, Senior Policy Advocate
World Wildlife Fund

Chauncey J. Moran, Board Chairman
Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve

**CC: Mr. Casey Sixkiller, Regional Administrator, Region 10
EPA**