

**ALABAMA RIVERS ALLIANCE * ALASKA COMMUNITY ACTION ON TOXICS *
ALASKA WILDERNESS LEAGUE * ALASKA WILDLIFE ALLIANCE * ALLIANCE
OF NURSES FOR HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS * ANTHROPOCENE ALLIANCE *
ATCHAFALAYA BASINKEEPER * BRISTOL BAY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION * BRISTOL BAY HERITAGE LAND TRUST * BRISTOL BAY
REGIONAL SEAFOOD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION * CENTER FOR
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY * CLEAN WATER ACTION * COLUMBIA RIVER CRAB
FISHERMAN'S ASSOCIATION * COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN FOR BRISTOL BAY
* COMMITTEE ON THE MIDDLE FORK VERMILION RIVER * COOK
INLETKEEPER * DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE * EARTHJUSTICE * EARTHWORKS
* ENDANGERED HABITATS LEAGUE * ENVIRONMENT AMERICA *
ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY * FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL
* FRIENDS OF ALASKA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES * FRIENDS OF THE
EARTH U.S. * GREAT EGG HARBOR WATERSHED ASSOCIATION *
GREENPEACE USA * GREENLATINOS * KENTUCKY RESOURCES COUNCIL, INC.
* LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS * MILL CREEK ALLIANCE * NATIONAL
AUDUBON SOCIETY * NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION *
NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION * NATIVE AMERICAN RIGHTS FUND *
NATURAL HERITAGE INSTITUTE * NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL
* OCEANA * OHIO VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION * PENNSYLVANIA
COUNCIL OF CHURCHES * SALMONSTATE * SAVE OUR WILD SALMON
COALITION * SIERRA CLUB * TENNESSEE WILDLIFE FEDERATION * THE
ALASKA CENTER * THE CONSERVATION FUND * THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
* THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY * TRUSTEES FOR ALASKA * WATERKEEPER
ALLIANCE * WATERWAY ADVOCATES * WILD SALMON CENTER * WORLD
WILDLIFE FUND**

November 8, 2021

Administrator Michael S. Regan
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Administrator Regan:

On behalf of the 53 undersigned organizations, representing tens of millions of members and supporters across the country, we write to thank you for seeking remand and vacatur of the Trump Administration's decision to withdraw EPA's 2014 Proposed Determination issued under Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act. Given U.S. District Court Judge Gleason's recent ruling in *Bristol Bay Economic Dev. Corp. v. Pirzadeh, et al.* reinstating the 2014 Proposed Determination, we now urge EPA to take immediate action under Section 404(c) to finish the job it started in 2014 and protect Bristol Bay from large-scale mining like the Pebble Mine. We

support EPA in completing the 404(c) process as swiftly as possible, and we are committed to assisting you and your staff in any way possible to achieve that goal.

Our request echoes and amplifies the letters sent in October 2021 from United Tribes of Bristol Bay, Bristol Bay Native Association, Bristol Bay Native Corporation, and Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation urging EPA to complete the Section 404(c) process before the start of the 2022 Bristol Bay fishing season. We join the economic, cultural, and social leaders of Bristol Bay in urging EPA to act expeditiously:

We support a through science-based process with appropriate public engagement as called for in the relevant regulations. Importantly, given the stress and distraction that Pebble has caused in Bristol Bay for so many years, we also ask that you move expeditiously to final agency action of 404(c). Doing so before the next Bristol Bay salmon runs will allow the people of Bristol Bay to enter the season free from that stress and distraction for the first time in many years.¹

Last season, Bristol Bay shattered records and celebrated the return of 66 million salmon. Integral to that extraordinary run is the environmental sustainability of the region—something the science unequivocally confirms that the proposed Pebble Mine would jeopardize. Bristol Bay is home to the world's largest wild sockeye salmon fishery, supplies 57 percent of the world's wild sockeye salmon, generates \$2.2 billion annually, and supports 15,000 American jobs.

But salmon are more than the economic engine of the region: Salmon are life in Bristol Bay. As they have for millennia, the wild salmon returning each year to Bristol Bay ensure Alaska Native communities' ways of life. Salmon feed its people, anchor its culture, sustain its wildlife, and are indispensable to both the practical and spiritual wellbeing of Bristol Bay's indigenous peoples.

Given what's at stake, there is no question that EPA has the support of the people to move diligently and quickly under Section 404(c) to protect Bristol Bay from large-scale mining like the Pebble Mine. And given the clear science and existing administrative record supporting immediate 404(c) action—coupled with both the Ninth Circuit's decision concerning the Trump Administration's 404(c) withdrawal and Judge Gleason's order granting EPA's motion for remand and vacatur—there is no question that EPA's decision to resume the 404(c) process is the right one.

Our groups stand by to support swift EPA action and a robust administrative process that ensures the people of Bristol Bay can begin the 2022 fishing season with durable 404(c) Clean Water Act protections in place.

¹ Letter from Jason Metrokin, President & CEO, Bristol Bay Native Corporation, Bruce Baltar, Acting President & CEO, Bristol Bay Native Association, and Norm Van Vactor, President & CEO, Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation to Michael Regan, EPA Administrator, dated October 22, 2021.

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Sincerely,

Jack West, Policy and Advocacy Director
Alabama Rivers Alliance

Pamela Miller, Executive Director
Alaska Community Action on Toxics

Andy Moderow, State Director
Alaska Wilderness League

Nicole Schmitt, Executive Director
Alaska Wildlife Alliance

Katie Huffling, Executive Director
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

Harriet Festing, Executive Director
Anthropocene Alliance

Dean Allen Wilson, Executive Director
Atchafalaya Basinkeeper

Robin Samuelson, Jr., Chairman of the Board
Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation

Tim Troll, Executive Director
Bristol Bay Heritage Land Trust

Andy Wink, Executive Director
Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association

Kristen Monsell, Oceans Legal Director
Center for Biological Diversity

Jennifer Peters, National Water Programs Director
Clean Water Action

Dale Beasley, President
Columbia River Crab Fisherman's Association

Katherine Carscallen, Executive Director
Commercial Fishermen for Bristol Bay

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Clark Bullard, President
Committee on the Middle Fork Vermilion River

Elisabeth Mering, Advocacy Specialist
Cook Inletkeeper

Cameron Walkup, Government Relations Coordinator
Defenders of Wildlife

Blaine Miller-McFeeley, Senior Legislative Representative
Earthjustice

Bonnie Gestring, Northwest Program Director
Earthworks

Dan Silver, Executive Director
Endangered Habitats League

Dyani Chapman, Alaska Organizer
Environment America

Danielle Grabiell, Wildlife Team Lead
Environmental Investigation Agency

Tom H. Logan, Chairman, FFI Board Conservation Committee
Fly Fishers International Verner

David C. Raskin, Ph.D., President
Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges

Verner Wilson III, Senior Oceans Campaigner
Friends of the Earth U.S.

Fred Akers, River Administrator
Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association

Amy Moas, Ph.D., Senior Campaigner
Greenpeace USA

Mariana Del Valle Prieto Cervantes, Water Equity and Ocean Program Manager
GreenLatinos

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Ashley Wilmes, Director
Kentucky Resources Council, Inc.

Madeleine Foote, Deputy Legislative Director
League of Conservation Voters

David Joseph Schmitt, Executive Director
Mill Creek Alliance

Natalie Dawson, Executive Director and Vice President
National Audubon Society

Alex Johnson, Alaska Senior Program Manager
National Parks Conservation Association

Abby Tinsley, Associate Vice President, Policy and Government Affairs
National Wildlife Federation

John Echohawk, Executive Director
Native American Rights Fund

Gerald Meral, Ph.D., Director, California Water Program
Natural Heritage Institute

Taryn Kiekow Heimer, Senior Advocate
Natural Resources Defense Council

Susan Murray, Deputy Vice President, US Pacific
Oceana

Vivian Stockman, Co-Executive Director
Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition

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

Tim Bristol, Executive Director
SalmonState

Joseph Bogaard, Executive Director
Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition

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Andrea Feniger, Alaska Chapter Director
Sierra Club

Michael Butler, CEO
Tennessee Wildlife Federation

Polly Carr, Executive Director
The Alaska Center

Lawrence A. Selzer, President & CEO
The Conservation Fund

Steve Cohn, Alaska State Director
The Nature Conservancy

Drew McConville, Senior Managing Director for Government Relations
The Wilderness Society

Vicki Clark, Executive Director
Trustees for Alaska

Bart Mihailovich, Organizing Manager
Waterkeeper Alliance

Caleb Merendino, Co-Executive Director
Waterways Advocates

Emily Anderson, Alaska Director
Wild Salmon Center

Rose Luttenberger, Senior Policy Advocate
World Wildlife Fund