

Dear Representative Stutes,

Thank you for taking the time to listen to Alaskans' concerns regarding transboundary mining and the risks posed to our downstream interests. The health of our watersheds and way of life in Alaska (and Canada) ultimately depends on public involvement to protect clean water and habitat.

Mining in transboundary watersheds must be held to a higher, internationally shared set of standards. The United States and Canadian federal governments must secure enforceable protections and financial assurances for our transboundary rivers.

In the 1949's and 1959's my father was a part-time miner in the Fairbanks/Ester and Central/Circle areas. He was partners on one of those massive dredges which floated on a man-made pond chewing up rock and soil and spitting out tailings along valleys throughout The North Country. Years later we heard stories of poisonous chemicals leaching from the tailings we were now using for roadways to cabin sites and riveways to homes, thus (supposedly) contaminating well waters with the runoff from the tailings.

Then comes Mt Polley!

Now, I really don't want that to happen again, on either side of the border.

Thank you for using your role as representatives of the people of Alaska to ensure the State of Alaska secures the commitment from the United States federal government to pursue international solutions to this international problem.

Sincerely,

Michael Driscoll