

March 14, 2017



Dear Alaska State Legislators,

Salmon Beyond Borders is a Juneau-based campaign driven by sport and commercial fishermen, community leaders, tourism and recreation business owners, and concerned citizens united across the Alaska/British Columbia border to defend and sustain the “transboundary” rivers—and the jobs and way of life dependent on them. For over three years, those of us involved with Salmon Beyond Borders have pushed for an international solution to the international situation of Canadian large-scale mining development in or near the headwaters of the Taku, Stikine and Unuk Rivers that originate in British Columbia (B.C.) and flow into Southeast Alaska. Thus, **Salmon Beyond Borders wholeheartedly supports House Joint Resolution 9 (HJR9)** that “urges the United States government to continue to work with the government of Canada...to develop measures to ensure that state resources are not harmed by upstream development in British Columbia.”

In the last several years, [thousands of individual Alaskans, Alaska organizations and businesses, and Alaska municipalities](#), as well as the Alaska congressional delegation, have requested (multiple times) for the U.S. federal government to work with the Canadian federal government to take action under the U.S.-Canada Boundary Waters Treaty and develop enforceable protections and financial assurances to ensure Alaska downstream interests are not harmed by upstream Canadian mining development. Additionally, in [a letter to Lieutenant Governor Byron Mallott](#) on September 20, 2016, more than 6,000 Alaskans called on the State of Alaska to explicitly ask the U.S. federal government to engage in the evolving Alaska-B.C. transboundary rivers issue. Finally, the [Alaska congressional delegation wrote](#) in their May 12, 2016 letter to Secretary of State John Kerry: “...utilize all measures at your disposal to address this issue at the international level.”

It is now time for the Alaska State Legislature and the State of Alaska to join with Alaskans and the Alaska congressional delegation in calling on the U.S. federal government to stand up for U.S. jobs and resources under threat by upstream mining development in Canada. The Alaska-B.C. Statement of Cooperation on Protection of Transboundary Waters is a step but it cannot lead to binding protections and financial assurances that Alaskans want and need to protect our way of life.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments, and thank you for supporting HJR 9.

Sincerely,

Heather Hardcastle, Salmon Beyond Borders Campaign Director