

From: [Skye Steritz](#)
To: [House Fisheries](#)
Cc: [Carol Hoover](#); [Dune Lankard](#); [Sean Den Adel](#); [David Lynn Grimes](#)
Subject: Comment opposing Abe Williams' appointment to Board of Fish
Date: Wednesday, September 09, 2020 1:04:46 PM

Dear Fisheries Committee Members,

As Program Manager of the Eyak Preservation Council, I am submitting this comment on behalf of myself and the organization I serve. The Eyak Preservation Council is a 501 c3 charity organization based in Cordova, Alaska, with a mission to honor Eyak heritage, and to conserve wild salmon habitat and culture through education, awareness, and the promotion of sustainable lifeways for all peoples.

Our Board of Directors (and all of our work) is Native-led. We recognize Alaska Native Peoples as the rightful, original stewards of these lands and waters we now call Alaska. The Eyak Preservation Council stands in solidarity with the United Tribes of Bristol Bay.

We oppose the appointment of Abe Williams to the Board of Fisheries. Williams, as a Pebble Limited Partnership employee, stands to benefit directly from proposed large-scale, open pit mining. If allowed, this mining would be at the expense of wild salmon themselves, as well as the people, cultures, and environments that rely on them in order to thrive. Large-scale, open pit copper and gold mines have a terrible track record of disaster and especially tailings dam failures.

If Abe Williams were appointed, it would be a blatant and disgraceful conflict of interest. Abe Williams should not be allowed to sit on the Board of Fisheries because of this major conflict of interest. Williams also cannot speak for the Native people of Bristol Bay, as he is neither Native, nor a full-time resident of Bristol Bay. As a general recommendation, the Board of Fisheries should strive for a great representation of Alaska Native Board Members.

We assert that every single one of the seven Board of Fisheries appointees should be people who are unbiased and stand for a strong future for wild salmon. Salmon are more than a resource. They are our relatives. Please do not allow Abe Williams to sit on the Board of Fisheries.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment,
Skye Steritz (she/her)

Program Manager
Eyak Preservation Council

I live and work on the ancestral lands of the Eyak and Tlingit People.

(907) 424-5890 office

(936) 537-4322 cell

www.eyakpreservationcouncil.org

Matt Gruening

From: Maryjane Hadaway <janeybug67@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 4:02 PM
To: House Fisheries
Subject: Alaska Board of Fisheries

I'm concerned about the recent appointment of a Pebble Mine advocate (Abe Williams) to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. I'm worried about the conflict of interest that presents. I also think it would be more equitable to re-allocate seats on the Board to get a better representation of our coastal communities. There should definitely be more than one person on the Board to represent our coastal communities and their interests.

Please re-consider the membership of this critical government entity, the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

Sincerely,
Maryjane Hadaway
34250 Poppy Wood St
Soldotna AK 99669

Sent from my iPhone

Matt Gruening

From: randisweet@alaskan.com
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2020 11:24 AM
To: Sen. Gary Stevens; Rep. Louise Stutes
Subject: Appointment of Abe Williams to Alaska Board of Fisheries- please do not confirm

Dunleavy's recent appointment of Abe Williams, the Pebble Limited Partnership's Director of Regional Affairs to the Alaska Board of Fisheries is a significant concern for me for two reasons:

- conflict of interest and not in the interest of fisheries management. Pebble should be making presentations to the Board vs. being on the Board.
- missed opportunity to have a person who lives in Bristol Bay, this position has apparently typically gone to a resident of BB. Mr. Williams apparently lives in Anchorage.

Fishing in Bristol Bay is an enormous sustainable natural resource on which many Alaskans rely for food and employment. The Board must have a focus on managing and sustaining the resource.

Please do not confirm this appointment.

Best regards,

Randi Sweet
PO Box 804
Seldovia AK. 99663-0804

Matt Gruening

From: robert vernon <gogovernon@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 08, 2020 4:40 PM
To: House Fisheries
Subject: Cut Pebble employees from the board of fish!

Sirs:
It is ludicrous to think that Pebble employees (past, present and future) should be on a board that has oversight of the limited partnership's application for permits.
The slime on these appointments is worse than any fish hold, and more than any fish board can hold.
No Pebble employees (Abe Williams, Krista van Dort, Jason Brune) on oversight boards.
Fix the system, not the decision.
Gordy Vernon
Box 3
Homer AK. 99603
399-1010

Sent from my iPhone

Matt Gruening

From: Rep. Louise Stutes
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2020 10:06 AM
To: House Fisheries
Subject: FW: Board of Fisheries appointment

From: Molly Payne <mkpayne18@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2020 1:01 PM
To: Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>
Subject: Board of Fisheries appointment

Hi,

I'm writing to say that I find it disturbing and appalling that Abe Williams has been appointed to the Board of Fisheries that will review the Pebble Mine decision. I don't doubt his abilities or experience as a fisherman, but the fact that he works for Pebble Mine is a glaring conflict of interest. I can't fathom how he could possibly make an unbiased decision that might negatively affect the plans/desires of his employer.

Would it be okay to let a fox weigh in on where to build the hen house? Please, let us reconsider this appointment to the board

-Molly

Molly Payne
M.S. Student
College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences
University of Alaska Fairbanks
mpayne19@alaska.edu

Matt Gruening

From: Rep. Louise Stutes
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2020 10:04 AM
To: House Fisheries
Subject: FW: Board of Fisheries

From: James Mackovjak <lituya@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 7:07 PM
To: Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>
Subject: Board of Fisheries

I came to Alaska in 1969 and immediately went to work for ADF&G aboard a scallop boat that was fishing out of Seward. I've worked as a deckhand on tenders and fishing boats for a number of years and owned my own fishing boat for three years. I have fished commercially for halibut, shrimp, Dungeness crab, and salmon (gillnet and troll), and for 18 years I operated Point Adolphus Seafoods, which specialized in sending live crabs and fresh fish to high-end markets mostly on the West Coast. I am the author of several books on Alaska's fisheries, including *Alaska Salmon Traps* and *Alaska Codfish Chronicle*. I'm presently writing a history of Alaska's herring fishery. I have attended a number of Board of Fisheries meetings and understand well the process.

Governor Dunleavy can do better than nominate Abe Williams to the Board of Fisheries. The one undeniable bright spot this summer in Alaska is the ongoing large run of sockeye salmon in Bristol Bay. There is no higher quality protein in the world. That our governor has nominated a paid advocate for the Pebble Mine is unconscionable. The House Fisheries Committee should reject Abe Williams. For anyone concerned about the future of Bristol Bay, rejecting him is a no-brainer.

I know nothing of McKenzie Mitchell, but the fact that she was nominated by the same person who nominated Abe Williams is a big strike against her. Moreover, fisheries are very much a coastal issue, and Mitchell is from Fairbanks. John Jensen shouldn't be the only board member who lives on the coast. Unless Mitchell can be extremely convincing that she will do the right thing by our fish, she, too, should be rejected. Instead, the governor should nominate someone knowledgeable about our fisheries and with a track record of dealing with complex and often controversial issues with knowledge and integrity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Like my brother says: Stay safe, stay strong, be kind, and work hard.

Jim

--

James Mackovjak
P.O. Box 63
Gustavus, Alaska 99826
home: (907) 308-4038

cell: (541) 514-9145
lituya@gmail.com

Matt Gruening

From: Rep. Louise Stutes
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2020 10:05 AM
To: House Fisheries
Subject: FW: Concerns regarding Board of Fish Appointees

From: anna casey <annacasey528@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2020 3:20 PM
To: Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>
Subject: Concerns regarding Board of Fish Appointees

Hello,

I am writing as a concerned resident regarding the governors nominations for new members to the board of fish. I feel that these appointments indicate that the needs of the state's critical fisheries are being pushed aside in the interest of personal and political gain. Abe Williams cannot fairly serve on a board that confronts issues facing the Bristol Bay fishery, due to his involvement with the Pebble Partnership creating a massive conflict of interest. Additionally, coastal and commercial fisheries need strong representation on the board, since they represent a significant part of the state's revenue, and the proposed board would include only one coastal resident.

I am a Bristol Bay commercial fisherman, and I want to do everything in my power to ensure that the Board of Fish is able to make informed and balanced decisions for the State's fisheries. The Governor's recent appointees jeopardize the board's balance and ability to make informed decisions.

Please, ensure that Governor Dunlevey's recent appointments are overridden.

Thank you,
Anna Casey
Naknek, Alaska

From: [Liz Dean](#)
To: [House Fisheries](#); senate.fisheries@akleg.gov; [Senate Resources](#); [House Resources](#)
Subject: A very important issue to any life long Alaskan
Date: Friday, August 28, 2020 12:19:13 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my significant concerns about Mr. Abe Williams' nomination to the Board of Fisheries by Governor Dunleavy, and to encourage the Legislature to reject his nomination.

The role of the Board of Fish is conserving and developing Alaska's fisheries and confirmation of Mr. Williams would call into question the Board's ability to responsibly manage Bristol Bay fisheries.

Mr. Williams has spent much of his career working to promote the proposed Pebble mine, which risks severe impacts to the sustainability and profitability of one of our state's most important fisheries. In recent years he has filed a lawsuit funded by the Pebble Limited Partnership against fellow commercial fishermen, consistently mischaracterized the overwhelming views of commercial fishermen and local communities from the region on the proposed mine, and testified dozens of times in support of developing the project despite the fact that it would permanently destroy between 105-300 miles of rivers and streams in the region. His long-standing commitment to the proposed Pebble mine and willingness to cast aside the undeniable harm it would cause to the local fisheries raise grave concerns and unresolvable conflicts with his ability to fulfill the responsibilities of the Board to conserve and develop Alaska's fisheries.

Bristol Bay has maintained near constant representation on the Board of Fish for 40 years. Replacing a board member in good standing who represents both the State's largest salmon fishery and rural Alaska with an active advocate for the Pebble Mine flies in the face of the values and priorities the Board of Fish is mandated to represent.

I urge the legislature to reject the nomination and encourage the Governor to find a more suitable candidate that has the faith of fishermen in fulfilling the Board's important role in managing our fisheries. We need our governing bodies to represent Alaskans and the real issues impacting our future, not the special interest of outsiders trying to devastate our pristine resources.

One question I often ask myself, is what kind of Alaska will we be leaving for our children and their children to experience? Will wild salmon and clean water be a mere mention in their history books? Or will those history books talk about how major jewelry companies such as Tiffany & Co. even boycotted the use of unethically, unsustainably, harvested gold from the Pebble Mine? We have been fighting this project for years, and as any life long Alaskan should, we will continue to do so.

Thank you,

Liz Dean

Matt Gruening

From: cheryl konter <ckonter@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2020 2:07 PM
To: House Fisheries
Subject: Abe Williams nomination

Hello,

I am concerned that Mr. Abe Williams has a profound conflict of interest. I do not think it is appropriate to have someone who is so heavily invested in a mining project be appointed to a government board to protect wild fisheries. As we have seen in other industries, like the aviation industry I work in, it is not safe or advantageous to have business and the government oversight agencies too close together. Please consider appointing someone who can be more objective about conservation.

Thank you,

Cheryl Konter
ckonter@yahoo.com

From: [Elma Burnham](#)
To: [House Fisheries](#)
Subject: Testimony on BOF
Date: Thursday, September 03, 2020 3:22:06 AM

Hello,

I am writing as a longtime Bristol Bay fisherman to share that I oppose the appointment of Abe Williams to the BOF seat. We need to have a local resident from the watershed, who truly understands and values the communities of Bristol Bay to sit in that seat - not someone with a corrupt agenda to push forward the Pebble Mine project.

Thank you,

Elma Burnham

From: [Reba Temple](#)
To: [House Fisheries](#)
Subject: Board of Fisheries testimony
Date: Friday, September 04, 2020 9:26:53 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

I wanted to express my concern over the Board of Fisheries appointee, Abe Williams. I don't think that Abe is the right person for the Board due to the conflict of interest over his work with the Pebble Limited Partnership.

I also think it is important to have a voice on the Board of a person who lives in the Bristol Bay watershed. Abe hasn't lived in the watershed for 10 years.

Thank you,

Reba Temple
Petersburg, Alaska

From: [Jack Donachy](#)
To: [House Fisheries](#)
Subject: Testimony re: Governor's Fisheries Board Appointees
Date: Thursday, September 03, 2020 3:43:15 PM

To All:

My name is Jack Donachy. My wife Barbra and I are full-time residents of Chignik Lake, Alaska.

Via phone, I listened with great interest - and concern - to public confirmation hearings regarding Governor Dunleavy's appointments to the Alaska Board of Fisheries on September 3. As part of those hearings, I provided oral testimony in strong opposition to the confirmation of Abe Williams.

I am submitting this letter in addition to that testimony.

I found it troubling that representatives did so little to push back on Mr. Williams' testimony. To wit:

- As per the Alaska Board of Fisheries home page on the Alaska Department of Fish and Game website, and per Alaska Statutes 16.05.251 paragraphs (1) and (7), it is clearly stated that **conservation** of fisheries resource is a primary mission of the board. This mission includes the Board's capacity to identify sanctuary areas. Yet I heard no clear question from representatives directing Mr. Williams to address this critical board mission and the glaring conflict of interest his pro-Pebble advocacy indicates.
- When asked whether or not he owned stock in the Pebble Mine Project - a Yes or No question -, Mr. Williams was evasive. He stated that stock options were available through his employment with Pebble, but that he had not taken advantage of those options. The questioner seemed to recognize that Mr. William's answer was evasive, and she repeated it. Again, Mr. Williams declined to offer a simple Yes or No response. Thus, the possibility that Mr. Williams does in fact own stock in Pebble, *or that he stands to receive other inducements for pushing the Pebble project forward*, were ignored by hearing members.
- One hearing member used his time primarily to testify on behalf of Mr. Williams rather than ask questions. During his favorable testimony, this member made an unsupported comparison between unnamed mines and fisheries in Southeast Alaska and the proposed Pebble mine in the Bristol Bay region.
 - Am I to understand that it is the job of members, in a public hearing, to offer beneficial testimony for candidates they "like" rather than ask relevant questions?
 - Allow me to give this member the same opportunity I have offered Pebble members and their supporters for the past several years: *Identify, anywhere in the world, a mine similar to the one the Pebble Partnership is proposing, sited on a watershed, that has not significantly damaged*

that watershed. The public hearing of September 3 was an opportune time for this member to divulge such information rather than to offer an unsubstantiated, vague pro-Pebble comparison.

- Mr. Williams' was permitted to cast himself as a "good communicator." Yet Mr. Williams referred to those who oppose his views as "loud voices," dismissed their sentiments as "robo-texts," and complained that "most of them" were from out of state. Despite the obvious contradiction between Mr. Williams' description of his communication skills on the one hand and his dismissive attitude toward those who disagree with him on the other hand, committee members offered little push-back.
 - Citizens sometimes become "loud" when they feel they aren't being listened to. More likely, they feel they must repeat themselves and in Mr. Williams mind, this repetition seems "loud." Mr. Williams is choosing to ignore multiple polls - and the voices of the majority of residents of Southwest Alaska *whom he claims to represent* - in dismissing their concerns about the proposed Pebble project.
 - I doubt that Mr. Williams has received *any* robo-texts on this or related matters. What he is more likely seeing are form letters and emails - correspondence individually signed by people who care about these issues. These letters are sponsored by legitimate advocacy groups such as Trout Unlimited and other organizations whose members value the Bristol Bay fishery.
 - According to the meeting minutes of September 3, 24 out of 100 letters came from out of state. While 76% of the correspondence came from Alaskans - indicating strong in-state opposition - it is neither surprising nor insidious that people from the Lower 48 such as commercial fishing permit holders from Washington and sport anglers, hunters, photographers and nature lovers from all states would write to express opposition to a supporter of Pebble Mine being appointed to the Board of Fisheries.

The committee grilled one appointee extensively about her commitment to subsistence fisheries. That questioning was appropriate - and frankly left some of us unsatisfied as to her appreciation and understanding of this issue. All four candidates were flawed. But a person who is right for the board can read, engage in research, talk to stakeholders and quickly get up to speed.

If they have the right attitude. If they are willing to listen, read, see and learn.

Mr. Williams appears to lack the conservation-minded attitude that is specified in the Board of Fisheries mandate. And he clearly lacks the listening/reading/seeing skills necessary to productive communication. He should have been questioned with more rigor. And, again, really... is it the job of board members to advocate for candidates they "like," or to let them slip away with evasive answers, rather than ask them well-crafted questions of probative value?

The hearing provided illustration into why many residents of coastal Southwest

fishing and subsistence communities do not trust the Board and do not trust processes as they relate to the Board.

We urge members to reflect and to do better.

Sincerely,
Jack Donachy and Barbra Donachy
Chignik Lake, Alaska
907-749-4222
blog at: cutterlight.com

From: sidhoedel@gmail.com
To: [House Fisheries](#)
Subject: Abe Williams
Date: Thursday, September 03, 2020 7:22:32 AM

Dear Members of the House Fisheries Committee,

As a lifelong commercial fisherman and Kodiak salmon seine permit holder I am strongly opposed to the appointment of Abe Williams to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. His work as a Pebble Mine employee puts him at irreconcilable odds with state fishing interests and protections, whether sport or commercial. The board's lack of coastal Alaska representation is abysmal and this appointment in particular is outrageous."

Sidney T Hoedel
(907)-947-8314
Sent from my iPhone

**Testimony
of Rebecca Knight
Joint Hearing of the House Resources and Fisheries Committee
(re. Board Of Fish Appointments)
September 3, 2020**

Hello Committee Chairs and Members,

I request that you reject Mr. Abe Williams appointment to the Board of Fish.

I am a resident of Petersburg. My family has drift-netted in Bristol Bay since 1991, including myself, my husband, my three sons and their respective families for a directly affected total of 8 individual family members. This does not include our crews who also have dependent families. We are heavily invested in the Bay, with three different operations and a large chunk of our annual incomes are derived from the fishery there.

Understandably, we become concerned when we perceive a direct threat to our livelihoods such as the proposed Pebble mine poses. For this reason, I ask that you do not appoint Abe Williams to the Board due to his conflict of interest with the Pebble Partnership. To do so would introduce a level of bias that quite simply would destroy the public's confidence in the Board of Fish process. Moreover, a Board of Fish action on the proposed mine could potentially have a much greater impact on the lives of Bristol Bay fishermen than any allocation issue, rule change, or quota recommendation that may come before the Board.

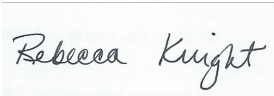
Mr. Williams has been employed by the Pebble Partnership for 10 years and has been their Director of Regional Affairs for two years while collecting a quite lucrative salary of between \$100 -\$200 thousand, during only a four month period. Any assumption that such a salary would not influence his decision-making is pure fantasy. His ties to Pebble represent a direct conflict of interest and should immediately disqualify him from consideration because of the huge controversy that the proposed Pebble mine continues to pose.

Mr. Williams duties with Pebble, seemingly as a as a de-facto lobbyist for the Pebble Partnership's agenda, would introduce conflict right out of the starting block. The Board has much hard work to do, especially during a time of struggling/declining Alaska fisheries. Devoting time to quelling controversy revolving around his conflicts of interest would mean diverting already scare time away from working on those vitally important issues. Even if Mr. Williams recuses himself, please consider that the Board should be operating with a full deck, and not automatically resigning itself to less than full participation by board members on any issue.

Certainly there are much more qualified and non-conflicted individuals who could represent the fishing community instead of the immediate conflict upon appointment, introduced by Mr. Williams association with the Pebble Partnership. The Board of Fish needs members who can vote on as many issues as possible without automatically being conflicted out.

Please reject Mr. Williams appointment to the Board of Fish.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebecca Knight". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured background.

Rebecca Knight

Petersburg

From: [Rep. Sarah Vance](#)
To: [House Fisheries](#)
Subject: District 31 BoF constituent pick
Date: Thursday, September 03, 2020 9:41:45 AM

From: Penelope Anne Haas <pah02003@mymail.pomona.edu>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2020 10:46 AM
To: Rep. Sarah Vance <Rep.Sarah.Vance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Abe Williams cannot serve of the BOF

Dear Sarah,

I live in Homer and am writing to ask you to please represent all the local Bristol Bay fishermen on the Kenai Peninsula and stop the appointment of Abe Williams to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

The Pebble Limited Partnership's Director of Regional Affairs cannot serve on a board whose task is overseeing state fisheries management without obvious bias.

The Legislature must act to deny Mr. Williams appointment to the board. Allowing Mr. Williams to serve on the board would undermine its role in conserving and developing Alaska's fisheries and call into question the board's ability to responsibly manage fisheries in Bristol Bay and throughout the state.

Thank you,

Penelope Haas

From: [Rep. Sarah Vance](#)
To: [House Fisheries](#)
Subject: District 31 BoF constituent pick
Date: Thursday, September 03, 2020 9:42:38 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: joejacob@everyactionadvocacy.com <joejacob@everyactionadvocacy.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2020 5:02 PM
To: Rep. Sarah Vance <Rep.Sarah.Vance@akleg.gov>
Subject: I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue

Dear Representative Sarah L. Vance,

We are writing to express our significant concerns about Mr. Abe Williams' nomination to the Board of Fisheries by Governor Dunleavy, and to encourage the Legislature to reject his nomination.

The role of the Board of Fish is conserving and developing Alaska's fisheries and confirmation of Mr. Williams would call into question the Board's ability to responsibly manage Bristol Bay fisheries.

Mr. Williams has spent much of his career working to promote the proposed Pebble mine, which risks severe impacts to the sustainability and profitability of one of our state's most important fisheries. In recent years he has filed a lawsuit funded by the Pebble Limited Partnership against fellow commercial fishermen, consistently mischaracterized the overwhelming views of commercial fishermen and local communities from the region on the proposed mine, and testified dozens of times in support of developing the project despite the fact that it would permanently destroy between 105-300 miles of rivers and streams in the region. His long-standing commitment to the proposed Pebble mine and willingness to cast aside the undeniable harm it would cause to the local fisheries raise grave concerns and unresolvable conflicts with his ability to fulfill the responsibilities of the Board to conserve and develop Alaska's fisheries.

Bristol Bay has maintained near constant representation on the Board of Fish for 40 years. Replacing a board member in good standing who represents both the State's largest salmon fishery and rural Alaska with an active advocate for the Pebble Mine flies in the face of the values and priorities the Board of Fish is mandated to represent.

We urge the legislature to reject the nomination and encourage the Governor to find a more suitable candidate that has the faith of fishermen in fulfilling the Board's important role in managing our fisheries.

Sincerely,
Joseph Jacob
PO Box 76 Clam Gulch, AK 99568-0076
joejacob@mindspring.com

From: [Evelyn C](#)
To: [House Fisheries](#); [Rep. Louise Stutes](#)
Subject: Abe Williams and the Future of Bristol Bay
Date: Thursday, September 03, 2020 9:53:08 AM

Good morning,

My name is Evelyn Corbett and I am a resident of Dillingham, Alaska.

I oppose the appointing of Abe Williams because it tilts the tables of bias on the Board of Fish. We know that Abe Williams is a supporter of Pebble Mine, but we also know that Alaskans are overwhelmingly against it.

The only "valid" reason for Pebble Mine is economic infrastructure. However, this reason is not valid enough. No amount of economic infrastructure is worth risking our salmon, our clean waters, our food sovereignty, and our livelihoods.

So this is my question: What is Abe Williams?
Is he a fourth-generation fisherman of Bristol Bay or the Director of Regional Affairs for the Pebble Partnership?

These two parts of identity conflict each other almost entirely. I won't take the chance that Pebble Mine is "safe." There are too many instances where the government deemed things such as mining safe and they devastated the land and waters and nothing was done about it.

It is not reasonable to ask the residents of Bristol Bay to accept this nomination. There is obviously a conflict between the salmon and the mine. The salmon are ours to care for and live by, and by allowing this conflict into our space, we are disregarding that responsibility entirely.

Quyana for your time and have a pleasant day.

Sincerely,
Evelyn Corbett

From: [melanie brown](#)
To: [House Fisheries](#)
Subject: BOF Hearing Comment-Abe Williams
Date: Thursday, September 03, 2020 10:27:32 AM

Dear House Fisheries Committee Members,

It is with concern about Governor Dunleavy's appointment of Abe Williams to the Board of Fisheries that I write to you today.

Being a Naknek River District set-netter who has grown up fishing Bristol Bay, I know how Abe is viewed by his peers and the fishing fleet. His alliance with the Pebble Limited Partnership lost the respect of just about everybody who fishes the Bay and most of the people who live there year round. This may seem anecdotal, but Abe can't even walk into a bar to have a drink without somebody approaching him to call him out for a fight.

If you want every decision that the Board of Fisheries to be met with skepticism by the fishermen who have to live by the decisions of the Board, confirm Abe Williams to the Board. If you want Board of Fisheries decisions to be viewed with integrity, there are plenty of Bristol Bay fishermen who are respected by the fleet and I suggest that you look further than Abe Williams.

Thank you for reading and considering what I have to share,

Melanie Brown
Naknek River District Set-netter

From: [Rep. Sarah Vance](#)
To: [House Fisheries](#)
Subject: District 31 BoF constituent pick
Date: Thursday, September 03, 2020 9:57:28 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Chuck Lindsay <chucklindsay@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2020 9:45 AM
To: Rep. Sarah Vance <Rep.Sarah.Vance@akleg.gov>
Subject: Board of Fish nominee Abe Williams

Honorable Representative Vance,

Thank you for your hard work representing us in House District 31. I live in Fritz Creek.

I am a commercial fisherman who fishes both in Cook Inlet and in Bristol Bay. I am really concerned about the nomination of Abe Williams to the Board of Fisheries. I ask that you consider voting to oppose his nomination. I welcome that Mr. Williams is a commercial fisherman, that he lives in a coastal community (kind of...Anchorage), and that he runs a business tied to commercial fishing. But, I am very concerned that Mr. Williams is the director of regional affairs for the Pebble Partnership, which is planning a large-scale gold and copper mine in Bristol Bay which will surely have negative impacts to the fishery. Mr. Williams has also sued the Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association, which is largely supported by commercial fisherman in Bristol Bay. These two issues seem like conflicts of interest to me. Mr. Williams is now the second nominee who has employment ties to Pebble Mine.

I hope that you will consider voting to oppose the nomination of Mr. Williams to the Board of Fisheries.

I hope that Governor Dunleavy will nominate a commercial fisherman, who is from a coastal community that is not Anchorage, without ties to the mining industry that threatens the productivity and marketability of salmon from Alaska.

Thank you for your consideration of my views and your continued service to the residents of House District 31.

Charles Lindsay
PO Box 15428
55060 Kalopi Ct.
Fritz Creek, AK 99603
907-399-2174

From: [Ashley Cummings](#)
To: [House Fisheries](#)
Subject: OPPOSITION to Abe Williams
Date: Thursday, September 03, 2020 10:38:25 AM

To whom it may concern,

I am extremely in opposition for Abe Williams. Alaska is know for it's sustainable fisheries and appointing someone who works for Pebble Partnership to destroy that fishery is a complete conflict of interest. Please do the right thing for Alaskans and stand up for the local people who do not agree with this. I am an Alaskan and I oppose the confirmation of Abe Williams to the board of fisheries.

Thank you,
Ashley Cummings

From: [Kyle Knight](#)
To: [House Fisheries](#)
Cc: [Kyle Knight](#)
Subject: Opposition to Abe Williams BOF appointment
Date: Thursday, September 03, 2020 9:53:52 AM

Hello,

As a lifelong Alaskan and stakeholder in multiple Alaska commercial fisheries (Bristol Bay Salmon Gillnet, 2C Halibut, SE herring gillnet) I am writing in opposition to confirming Abe Williams as a member of the Board of Fish.

Abe Williams has been a long-time advocate for development of the Pebble Mine- a proposed project that would inevitably and drastically harm Alaska's premier fishery and sustainable private sector economic engine- Bristol Bay Salmon gillnet. His longstated views and actions are contrary to the BOF's mandate to act to conserve and sustain the value of Alaska's fisheries resources. He has consistently acted in a fashion opposed to overwhelming public opinion, the interests of fisheries stakeholders, and the fundamental tenets of sustainable fisheries management.

Like Jason Brune and the Department of Environmental Conservation, his nomination to the Board is just another thinly veiled attempt by Governor Dunlevy to install a Pebble shill in a position of power to allow for the development of the Pebble Mine.

We cannot allow the Board assembled to protect and manage our fisheries resources to be infiltrated by powers opposed to it's own mission and interests.

Confirming Abe will be a direct slap in the face of your constituents.

Please reject Abe Williams' nomination to the Board of Fish.

Thanks for your time,

Kyle Knight

From: [Peter Crimp](#)
To: [House Fisheries](#)
Subject: Opposition to Abe Williams appointment to Board of Fisheries
Date: Thursday, September 03, 2020 10:19:42 AM

My family and I have setnet in Nushagak Bay since 1988 and have run a small direct fish market business there for the last ten years.

I do not know Abe Williams nor am I familiar with his judgment or temperament. But I am disappointed that Governor Dunleavy has chosen to appoint an employee of the Pebble mine as the representative for our fishery on the Board of Fish. It is a needless slap in the face of the overwhelming majority of fishermen who oppose the mine and can only lead to distrust and discord. Please do not confirm Mr. Williams.

Thank you.

Peter Crimp

Homer, 907-440-6709

From: [Thomas Tallant](#)
To: [House Fisheries](#)
Subject: Please Oppose Abe Williams
Date: Thursday, September 03, 2020 10:36:32 AM

Dear Members of the House Special Committee on Fisheries,

I urge you to oppose the nomination of Mr. Abe Williams to the Alaska State Board of Fisheries. As a Pebble Limited Partnership employee, Mr. Williams has an obvious conflict of interest and should not be allowed to serve on any committees that oversee environmental or wildlife concerns.

Sincerely,

Thomas Tallant
2287 Sorbus Way
Anchorage, Alaska

From: [karelbill](#)
To: [House Fisheries](#)
Subject: williams
Date: Thursday, September 03, 2020 10:04:29 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

NO on Williams.

Pebble reps have no place on BoF!! Much less, two!!!

He may be BB fisher, but he has SERIOUS CONFLICT OF INTEREST!!!

Thanks

Bill J Hauser

Bill Hauser, FISH TALK, Author and Fish Biologist (for 50+ years)

- ***Letters from Alaska***, *The Inside to the Outside* (Short stories about life in Alaska)

- ***Fishes of the Last Frontier***, *Life Histories, Biology, Ecology, and Management of Alaska Fishes*

(About our Alaska fishes, written in non-technical language.)

3621 Hazen Circle

Anchorage, AK 99515

karelbill@gci.net

Home 907 349 7175 – BEST CHOICE

Cell 907 717 6989

www.billhauserbooks.com : Read sample chapters and other information (South Africa; So America; North Slope)

Fishes of the Last Frontier

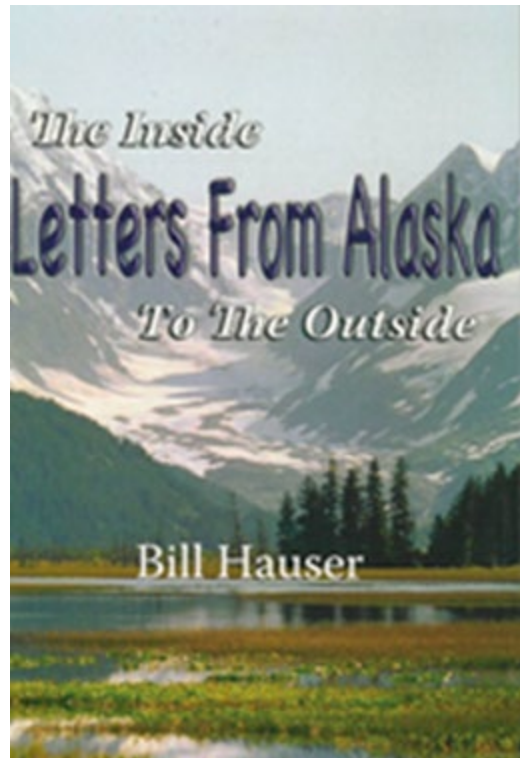
Life Histories, Biology, Ecology,
and Management of Alaska Fishes



William J. Hauser

The Inside **Letters From Alaska** *To The Outside*

Bill Hauser



From: [Tyrell Wilson](#)
To: [House Fisheries](#)
Subject: Board of Fisheries and Abe Williams
Date: Thursday, September 03, 2020 11:18:55 AM

Hello,

My name is Tyrell Wilson from Anchorage, Alaska. I called into the meeting today but had to go to work prior to the public comment period. I am writing today to voice my opposition to the confirmation of Abe Williams to the Board of Fisheries. Abe Williams is an employee of the Pebble Limited Partnership. I cannot see how an employee of Pebble could oversee fisheries management without a clear bias. How could I trust Abe Williams to make critical decisions for Bristol Bay? I would also question his judgment in other areas of the state where resource development could place critical fisheries in danger.

Thank you for your time.

Tyrell Wilson

From: [Mike Penick](#)
To: [House Fisheries](#)
Subject: Fisheries appointment
Date: Thursday, September 03, 2020 10:45:13 AM

Hello

I have lived in Alaska for 6 years and I oppose the confirmation of Abe Williams to the board of fisheries because his position with the Pebble Limited Partnership is a conflict of interest. Please consider the best interests of the people and not corporate influence on this matter. Thank you
-Michael B Penick

From: [Lisa](#)
To: [House Fisheries](#)
Subject: Fisheries board nomination
Date: Thursday, September 03, 2020 11:17:22 AM

I am a Bristol Bay fisherman of 29 years, as are my husband, two children, and son in law. Fishing is our family's largest source of income, and also a place of coming together for all of us.

I strongly oppose the appointment of Abe Williams to the Board of Fish for the State of Alaska. It is a direct conflict of interest to appoint an employee of the Pebble Project. This nomination is political and lacks the facts and science needed to protect Bristol Bay waters.

I urge the Governor to find a more suitable candidate that will put the management of our fisheries as a top priority. The Pebble Project has the potential to destroy one of the last large salmon sockeye runs in the world, and the State of Alaska will be left with the burden of maintaining it in perpetuity.

Thank you,
Lisa Krebs

From: lorayne@gci.net
To: [House Fisheries](#)
Subject: Opposed to Abe Williams on the Fishery Board
Date: Thursday, September 03, 2020 11:12:46 AM

Regarding: Opposition to appointment of Abe Williams

I am opposed to Governor Dunleavy's appointment of Abe Williams to the Board of Fisheries. Mr. Williams works for the Pebble Partnership! This is a conflict of interest in every sense of the imagination! Why is this being accepted as OK? The eyes of the world are on us with Pebble Mine. Alaska is world renown for its natural fisheries and habitat. Please do not allow Mr. William's representation with Pebble Partnership to seep into the Alaska Board of fisheries by allowing him on the fishery board. I am opposed to the confirmation of Abe Williams to the Board of Fisheries. Thank you

Lorayne Embretson
lorayne@gci.net
907-360-6928

From: [Mariel Terry](#)
To: [House Fisheries](#)
Subject: Finished Testimony Opposition to Abe Williams
Date: Thursday, September 03, 2020 2:22:38 PM

To the House Fisheries Committee,

I was unable to finish my testimony during the confirmation hearing and I would like to submit my full statement here. The last paragraph, in bold, is what I had to omit from my oral testimony and also a point that I have not heard be made yet:

Good afternoon, my name is Mariel Terry, I am calling on behalf of myself as a concerned citizen. I am, in fact, not a robot but a flesh and blood Alaskan born and raised. My residency is in Anchorage but I split my time between Anchorage and Bristol Bay where I work as a fisheries scientist. I am calling to voice my opposition to the appointment of Abe Williams to the Board of Fish. I am greatly concerned by the prospect of someone who is receiving payment and employment by out-of-state and international corporate interests that are misaligned with the majority view of the region to which he would be tasked to represent. The Board of Fish was established for the purposes of conserving and developing fisheries resources around Alaska. The entity that Williams is employed by, the Pebble Partnership, is attempting to permit a development project that the Army Corps of Engineers recently admitted would likely result in significant adverse effects on the aquatic system, that is to say a project in direct conflict with the mission to conserve and develop the fisheries resources of the region.

There is a grand and lengthy body of evidence to suggest that Abe Williams has a very clear and targeted agenda. I watched an interview recently, one of many that I have seen and read while doing research on Mr. Williams, that was dated seven years ago, in 2013, where Williams vehemently advocates for the development of the pebble mine under the pretext that it would bring economic growth to communities in Bristol Bay. At the time he sounded like a great candidate to hold a paid position with the Pebble Partnership which he now coincidentally does as the Director of Regional Affairs. Considering what is now public information about how the Pebble Partnership goes about furthering its agenda, for example a promised multi million dollar payout to its CEO if the mine were to successfully become permitted, it could be inferred that Williams is now being paid a significant salary to systemically advocate on behalf of the mine. It is greatly concerning to me that an individual in such an overtly political position would be tasked with objectively synthesizing and incorporating scientific assessments provided by scientists with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. It is also greatly concerning to me that a person tasked with ensuring the success of a large scale mine that according to the Army Corps of Engineers would have would likely result in significant adverse effects on the aquatic system or human environment would be selected to represent a community that a recent poll found opposes the mine by 77% ([commissioned by United Tribes of Bristol Bay](#) and conducted by Hays Research Group).

According to an article published by Alaska Public Media this morning, Williams has previously stated during his senate confirmation hearing that he would recuse himself from voting on matters pertaining to Bristol Bay. So essentially, if Williams were to be appointed and he were to adhere to this protocol, the Board of Fish would then only have 6 voting members when it came to matters affecting this immensely important fishery. As a resident, I would much prefer to have seven fully functioning member on the board. I urge the House committee to reject the appointment of Abe Williams to the board in favor of someone without the conflicts of interest that he brings to the table and better suited to carry out the mission of the Board of Fish. I echo the sentiment of others who have testified that I would like to see increased representation from rural, coastal, fishing communities. Thank you so much for the opportunity to testify.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

Mariel Terry

Anchorage, AK

From: oceanawills@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Oceana Wills](#)
To: [House Fisheries](#)
Subject: I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue
Date: Thursday, September 03, 2020 12:01:40 PM

Dear Alaska House Fisheries Committee,

We are writing to express our significant concerns about Mr. Abe Williams' nomination to the Board of Fisheries by Governor Dunleavy, and to encourage the Legislature to reject his nomination.

The role of the Board of Fish is conserving and developing Alaska's fisheries and confirmation of Mr. Williams would call into question the Board's ability to responsibly manage Bristol Bay fisheries.

Mr. Williams has spent much of his career working to promote the proposed Pebble mine, which risks severe impacts to the sustainability and profitability of one of our state's most important fisheries. In recent years he has filed a lawsuit funded by the Pebble Limited Partnership against fellow commercial fishermen, consistently mischaracterized the overwhelming views of commercial fishermen and local communities from the region on the proposed mine, and testified dozens of times in support of developing the project despite the fact that it would permanently destroy between 105-300 miles of rivers and streams in the region. His long-standing commitment to the proposed Pebble mine and willingness to cast aside the undeniable harm it would cause to the local fisheries raise grave concerns and unresolvable conflicts with his ability to fulfill the responsibilities of the Board to conserve and develop Alaska's fisheries.

Bristol Bay has maintained near constant representation on the Board of Fish for 40 years. Replacing a board member in good standing who represents both the State's largest salmon fishery and rural Alaska with an active advocate for the Pebble Mine flies in the face of the values and priorities the Board of Fish is mandated to represent.

We urge the legislature to reject the nomination and encourage the Governor to find a more suitable candidate that has the faith of fishermen in fulfilling the Board's important role in managing our fisheries.

Sincerely,
Oceana Wills
PO Box 382 Homer, AK 99603-0382
oceanawills@gmail.com

From: [Jenna Keeton](#)
To: [House Fisheries](#)
Subject: Oppose confirmation of Abe Williams
Date: Thursday, September 03, 2020 12:51:00 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

This email intends to convey my opposition to the confirmation of Abe Williams to the Alaska Board of Fisheries. I am actively watching the Joint House Fisheries and Resources Hearing and wish to share that although the Board of Fisheries may not be involved in the active permitting process of Pebble Mine, certainly the influence of Mr. Williams may be felt reverberated through the actions and decisions made by the Board of Fisheries.

I strongly oppose the confirmation of Abe Williams to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

My background is in Aquatic and Fishery Sciences (B.S) and Watershed Ecology (M.S) and have spent multiple summers studying sockeye salmon in the Wood River system.

Thank you for your time.
Jenna Keeton

From: jocelyn.reamey
To: [House Fisheries](#)
Subject: Representative
Date: Thursday, September 03, 2020 1:55:28 PM

Hello I am writing to recommend nominating a new State board of fisheries representative to be the voice of Bristol Bay. I am a Yupik and Alutiiq subsistence fisher woman like the women before me, and I am teaching my children to do the same. I have been a commercial fisherman with my family, my oldest son is now a commercial fishermen as well. This is a deeply personal issue and we the people of Bristol bay deserve appropriate representation to cover our beliefs and values which the future of the salmon fisheries effects us greatly. This is our culture, heritage and livelihood as well as basic nutrition.

Thank you for your time.

Joclyn Reamey
9078431483

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [Donna Rae Faulkner](#)
To: [House Fisheries](#); [House Resources](#); [Senate Resources](#); [Rep. Sarah Vance](#); [Sen. Gary Stevens](#)
Subject: We are Alaskan residents who respectfully and strongly oppose the appointment of Abe Williams to the Board of Fisheries
Date: Thursday, September 03, 2020 2:22:54 PM

Dear Alaskan Legislators,

In these very stressful times, we believe that Alaskans (and Americans) don't need more drama and controversy.

We don't know Abe Williams personally and he may have great integrity, he certainly sounds like an active community member and we appreciate people who participate in community, in public service, and who are willing to step up. We listened to much of the meeting today and signed up to speak on the phone with the committee (though it is possible that time won't permit us to speak.)

We DO NOT support the appointment of Abe Williams to the Board of Fisheries. It is clear to us that anyone who is the Director of Regional Affairs for the Pebble Limited Partnership naturally has a conflict of interest if they serve on the Alaska Board of Fisheries and though they might recuse themselves from some votes or discussions, their appointment is not appropriate.

We need to be building trust with each other in this state/country. Not making appointments that are controversial from the start.

It was insulting to us, as Alaskans, that the Governor would make such an appointment (as his appointments of anyone closely associated with the projected Pebble Mine.)

Whether we like it or not, this is a highly charged political environment and appointment. Enough.

Why muddy the waters and sow more distrust in the leadership and process? Please reject the appointment of Abe Williams.

He can still participate, as we do, as a public citizen. He will, no doubt, be participating as a Pebble Mine director/employee.

We thank you for your service and listening to Alaskans. We love Alaska and we believe that you do too.

Sincerely,

Donna Rae and Don

Donna Rae Faulkner and Don "Iceman" McNamara
Oceanside Farms
58508 East End Road
Homer, AK 99603
(907) 235-SURF and (907) 299-SURF
<https://oceansidefarms.weebly.com/>

From: [Jaclyn Christensen](#)
To: [House Fisheries](#)
Subject: confirmation of abe williams for the state of alaska board of fisheries
Date: Thursday, September 03, 2020 1:47:07 PM

Hello my name is Jaclyn Christensen and I am a third generation fishermother for my family. I subsistence harvest salmon for my family to have meat protein for the winter. My son's favorite dish is salmon spread and bread, and my daughters favorite dish is smoked salmon strips with lowbush salmonberries aka cloudberryes. I am explaining the importance of fish this way because the connection is real. We have a relationship with our salmon on a daily basis. I need salmon. I need to feed my family with the nutrients that the salmon provide there is no satisfying alternative for us. I strongly believe that Abe Williams is not advocating on behalf of Bristol Bay Residents like myself or anyone from the state of Alaska who love and need salmon on a daily basis. Please consider an alternative to the board of fish because we already have many people on the board who do not advocate for the best interest of families who depend on salmon in the benefit of us rural Alaskans.
Quyana Jaclyn Christensen

--

Jaclyn Christensen

PO Box 49026
Port Heiden, AK 99549
(907) 444-4247

From: [Jamie O'Connor](#)
To: [Matt Gruening](#)
Subject: BOF Appointments
Date: Thursday, September 03, 2020 10:25:13 AM

Good morning,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on Governor Dunleavy's appointments to the Board of Fisheries. I am a lifelong Alaskan and fifth-generation commercial fisherman from Dillingham now living in Homer.

I am deeply concerned about the appointment of Mr. Abe Williams and his insurmountable conflict of interest as an employee of the Pebble Partnership. He does not represent the majority of fishermen or residents from the Bristol Bay region and it is a pity to see Fritz Johnson replaced in this way by someone living in Anchorage.

I would also urge the committee to take a hard look at the geographic location of the appointees. If reappointed, John Jensen would be the ONLY member of the BOF from a coastal community. This is a disturbing disenfranchisement of coastal residents most closely dependent on marine resources.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and work on this matter.

Take care,

Jamie O'Connor

PO Box 3503
Homer, AK
99603

Bristol Bay set netter

From: [Rep. Louise Stutes](#)
To: [Matt Gruening](#)
Subject: Fw: Abe Williams & Board of Fisheries
Date: Thursday, September 03, 2020 10:49:51 AM

From: Lauren Stanford <agophia@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2020 10:39 AM
To: Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>
Subject: Abe Williams & Board of Fisheries

Hello,

I am a fourth generation Bristol Bay commercial fishermen and a permit holder. I fish the same setnet site near the mouth of the Naknek River my grandmother fished over sixty years ago. Commercial fishing is my primary means of making a living and I consider it part of my heritage and identity. I also grew up subsistence fishing on the shores of Lake Clark. I cannot imagine that anyone who works for Pebble Limited Partnership and who supports the Proposed Pebble Mine could represent the best interests of wild salmon and the commercial, sport and subsistence fisherman who rely on this invaluable resource. Alaska has the last great wild runs of salmon in the entire world. Numbers in many areas are dwindling, so it is imperative that we have people on the Board of Fisheries that know what they're doing and put fish first. I question Abe Williams's judgement in regards to the fisheries because of his role at the Pebble Limited Partnership: this strikes me as a major conflict of interest. I strongly oppose Abe Williams's appointment to the Board of Fisheries.

Thank you,
Lauren Stanford

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Rep. Louise Stutes](#)
To: [Matt Gruening](#)
Subject: Fw: Abe Williams Board of Fisheries
Date: Thursday, September 03, 2020 10:50:26 AM

From: Brooks Larson <brookslarson@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2020 10:26 AM
To: Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>
Subject: Abe Williams Board of Fisheries

Greetings Representative Louise Stutes,

My name is Brooks Larson and I have lived in Alaska since 2005. I vehemently oppose the candidacy of Abe Williams for the Board of Fisheries. There is a clear conflict of interest with this selection by Governor Dunleavy, as Williams is a Pebble employee whose views do not reflect the majority (62% majority statewide, and 80% in the Bristol Bay region oppose the Pebble Mine). I have worked in the Bristol Bay region since 2017 and have experienced firsthand the opposition to Pebble Mine. It is my belief that Abe Williams was nominated by Governor Dunleavy because Dunleavy has been doing everything he can to make the Pebble Mine a reality, including meeting with President Trump. It is known that Dunleavy copy-and-pasted letters from the Pebble Partnership in order to gain the President's approval in the past. In response to these blatant showings of corruption and willingness to subvert the majority of Alaskans, I strongly oppose Abe Williams for the Board of Fisheries position.

Thank you,

Brooks Larson
UAA Student, Alaskan
brookslarson@hotmail.com

From: [Rep. Louise Stutes](#)
To: [Matt Gruening](#)
Subject: Fw: Appointment of Abe Williams
Date: Thursday, September 03, 2020 12:53:52 PM

From: Catey Burtness-Adams <cateyb.a@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2020 11:27 AM
To: Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>
Subject: Appointment of Abe Williams

Good morning,

I am a Fairbanks resident, but I grew up in Naknek and King Salmon in Bristol Bay. I am intimately familiar with the significance and value of the fishing industry in Bristol Bay and am deeply concerned by the threat Pebble Mine poses to the economic future of the Bristol Bay region.

The appointment of Abe Williams is a serious conflict of interest. His employment with the Pebble Mine project will make it impossible for him to truly represent the majority of the Bristol Bay fisherpeople and community and their long term interests. I am even more concerned for in the confirmation hearing today, he did not say he would step down in his Pebble Mine position if he is appointed. This is a blatant political move by the administration to push through a controversial and dangerous project.

The appointment of Abe Williams to the Board of Fisheries would be detrimental and destructive to the Bristol Bay fishing industry and the economic independence and stability of its communities.

Thank you for your consideration,

Catherine Burtness-Adams
2125 Yankovich Ave
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: [Rep. Louise Stutes](#)
To: [Matt Gruening](#)
Subject: Fw: Appointment of Abe Williams
Date: Thursday, September 03, 2020 11:32:23 AM

From: Catey Burtness-Adams <cateyb.a@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2020 11:27 AM
To: Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>
Subject: Appointment of Abe Williams

Good morning,

I am a Fairbanks resident, but I grew up in Naknek and King Salmon in Bristol Bay. I am intimately familiar with the significance and value of the fishing industry in Bristol Bay and am deeply concerned by the threat Pebble Mine poses to the economic future of the Bristol Bay region.

The appointment of Abe Williams is a serious conflict of interest. His employment with the Pebble Mine project will make it impossible for him to truly represent the majority of the Bristol Bay fisherpeople and community and their long term interests. I am even more concerned for in the confirmation hearing today, he did not say he would step down in his Pebble Mine position if he is appointed. This is a blatant political move by the administration to push through a controversial and dangerous project.

The appointment of Abe Williams to the Board of Fisheries would be detrimental and destructive to the Bristol Bay fishing industry and the economic independence and stability of its communities.

Thank you for your consideration,

Catherine Burtness-Adams
2125 Yankovich Ave
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: [Rep. Louise Stutes](#)
To: [Matt Gruening](#)
Subject: Fw: BOF nominee comment
Date: Thursday, September 03, 2020 10:49:35 AM

From: Olivia Edwards <olivianedwards@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2020 10:41 AM
To: Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>
Subject: BOF nominee comment

Hello,

I am writing to urge the legislature to reject the nomination of Abe Williams to the State Board of Fisheries. He has glaring conflict of interest with his prior employment with Pebble Mine and has no business making decisions on the management of Alaska's irreplaceable fisheries.

Thank you,

Olivia Edwards
Fairbanks, AK

From: [Rep. Louise Stutes](#)
To: [Matt Gruening](#)
Subject: Fw: Testimony RE: Appointment of Williams to BOF
Date: Thursday, September 03, 2020 1:40:58 PM

From: Glenna Gannon <glennagannon@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2020 1:59 PM
To: Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony RE: Appointment of Williams to BOF

Good afternoon,

I am writing as a VERY concerned citizen and fisherwoman over the appointment of Abe Williams to the Alaska Board of Fish. William's role as director of regional affairs for Pebble Mine is an ENORMOUS conflict of interest, and I have zero confidence that he will be able to responsibly and ethically make management decisions regarding Alaska's fisheries based on his position with Pebble Mine (of which he has made no indication that he will repeal himself if he sits on the BOF).

Dunleavy's appointment of this individual stands to cause havoc and more than likely result in the loss of millions of dollars of income for Alaskans, millions of dollars of revenues for the State and thousands of Alaskan's jobs. This is a shameful political move and threatens the very fabric of Alaska's economy and fishing lifeway. And for what, so one mine can get further pushed ahead even after Alaska's residents have been telling Northern Dynasty and our State representatives and legislators "NO" to pebble mine for decades??

I urge the legislature to reject the nomination and encourage the Governor to find a more suitable candidate that has the faith of fishermen and Alaskans in fulfilling the Board's important role in managing our fisheries.

Sincerely,
Glenna Gannon, MES.c

From: [Rep. Louise Stutes](#)
To: [Matt Gruening](#)
Subject: Fwd: Abe Williams and the Future of Bristol Bay
Date: Thursday, September 03, 2020 9:57:48 AM

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Evelyn C <3ve7ync@gmail.com>
Date: September 3, 2020 at 9:53:08 AM AKDT
To: House Fisheries <HouseFisheries@akleg.gov>, "Rep. Louise Stutes" <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>
Subject: Abe Williams and the Future of Bristol Bay

Good morning,

My name is Evelyn Corbett and I am a resident of Dillingham, Alaska.

I oppose the appointing of Abe Williams because it tilts the tables of bias on the Board of Fish. We know that Abe Williams is a supporter of Pebble Mine, but we also know that Alaskans are overwhelmingly against it.

The only "valid" reason for Pebble Mine is economic infrastructure. However, this reason is not valid enough. No amount of economic infrastructure is worth risking our salmon, our clean waters, our food sovereignty, and our livelihoods.

So this is my question: What is Abe Williams?
Is he a fourth-generation fisherman of Bristol Bay or the Director of Regional Affairs for the Pebble Partnership?

These two parts of identity conflict each other almost entirely. I won't take the chance that Pebble Mine is "safe." There are too many instances where the government deemed things such as mining safe and they devastated the land and waters and nothing was done about it.

It is not reasonable to ask the residents of Bristol Bay to accept this nomination. There is obviously a conflict between the salmon and the mine. The salmon are ours to care for and live by, and by allowing this conflict into our space, we are disregarding that responsibility entirely.

Quyana for your time and have a pleasant day.

Sincerely,
Evelyn Corbett

From: [Paula Cullenberg](#)
To: [Matt Gruening](#)
Subject: comments on Mr. Williams nomination to Board of Fisheries
Date: Thursday, September 03, 2020 10:12:37 AM

Dear House Fisheries Committee members,

I tried to call in this morning but the phone number I had didn't work. So I'm sending these comments along for inclusion into the public record.

Paula Cullenberg
(907) 440-6704

Thank you. Members of the House Fisheries committee.

My name is Paula Cullenberg and I live in Homer, Alaska. My family have been permit holders in the Bristol Bay setnet fishery for 38 years and in addition we operate a small direct marketing business.

I am calling to express my opposition to the appointment of Mr. Abe Williams to the Board of Fisheries. I am opposed to this appointment for two reasons.

First, the Board of Fisheries is a trusted, credible and open process that impacts fishermen across Alaska. Currently the Pebble Partnership, who employs Mr. Williams, is requesting a permit from the state to build a mine at the headwaters of some of Bristol Bay's valuable salmon habitat. As we all know, this is a very controversial and charged issue in our state. Placing an employee of Pebble Partnership on the Board of Fisheries will impact the Board's credibility and trust among stakeholders, reducing the effectiveness of the Board. This makes Mr. Williams a poor candidate at this time.

I also believe that the state would be better served if this seat was filled with a rural coastal resident. Currently there is only one coastal rural resident on the Board. Given that the subsistence and commercial fisheries of our state make up the core economic input to our coastal communities, it is critical that the Board include rural coastal residents who have this perspective and experience to contribute to the Board's decisions. There is a decades long history of a Bristol Bay watershed resident involved in commercial or subsistence fishing serving on the Board of Fisheries. There are many individuals living in the region who would do a good job on the Board of Fisheries and bring this understanding and experience to the process. The Governor should appoint someone who lives in rural coastal Alaska.

For these two reasons, I believe that this nomination hurts, rather than helps our state's Board of Fisheries process. I encourage you to vote against confirmation of Mr. Williams for the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my input.

From: [Rep. Louise Stutes](#)
To: [House Fisheries](#)
Subject: FW: Abe Williams, Board of Fish
Date: Tuesday, September 08, 2020 12:54:05 PM

From: Mary Burtness <mcburtness@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 04, 2020 1:24 PM
To: Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>
Subject: Abe Williams, Board of Fish

Dear Representative Stutes:

I am a Fairbanks resident, but lived in Naknek and King Salmon in Bristol Bay for 12 years. I have been following the concerns of my friends in Bristol Bay and their struggle to save their fishing industry from the threat of the Pebble Mine. I am convinced that the Pebble Mine is a threat to the economic health of the region.

The appointment of Abe Williams is a serious conflict of interest. His employment with the Pebble Mine project is a conflict of interest and I don't think he can be impartial to the fish resources over the mineral resources of the region. I also understand he is not willing to give up this role in the Pebble Mine if he is appointed to the board. This seems to be a political move by the administration to push this project through.

The appointment of Abe Williams to the Board of Fisheries would be detrimental and destructive to the Bristol Bay fishing industry and the economic independence and stability of its communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Mary C Burtness
2125 Yankovich Road
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: [Rep. Louise Stutes](#)
To: [House Fisheries](#)
Subject: FW: Abe Williams
Date: Tuesday, September 08, 2020 12:55:37 PM

From: Francis Adams <smada101@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 03, 2020 2:16 PM
To: Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>
Subject: Abe Williams

Abe Williams has conflicts of interest and should not be added to the Board of Fish.

Thank you.

From: [Rep. Louise Stutes](#)
To: [House Fisheries](#)
Subject: FW: Appt of Abe Williams
Date: Tuesday, September 08, 2020 12:52:17 PM

From: Frana Burtness-Adams <fburtnessadams@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 07, 2020 6:49 PM
To: Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>
Subject: Appt of Abe Williams

Good morning,

I am Denver resident but my heart lies in Alaska. I grew up in Naknek and King Salmon in Bristol Bay living a subsistence lifestyle with my family and spending most of my childhood in the outdoors. I am intimately familiar with the significance and value of the fishing industry in Bristol Bay and am deeply concerned by the **threat Pebble Mine poses** to the economic future of the Bristol Bay region.

The appointment of Abe Williams is a **serious conflict of interest**. His employment with the Pebble Mine project will make it **impossible for him to truly represent** the majority of the Bristol Bay fisherpeople and community and their long term interests. I am even more concerned for in the confirmation hearing today, he did not say he would step down in his Pebble Mine position if he is appointed. This is a **blatant political move** by the administration to push through a controversial and dangerous project.

The appointment of Abe Williams to the Board of Fisheries would be detrimental and destructive to the Bristol Bay fishing industry and the economic independence and stability of its communities.

The Bristol Bay community deserves better. Please be on the right side of history.

--

"Comfort is the enemy of achievement"

Frana BA
She/Her

LxX Collective | Financial Professional | Leadership Curator | KWYA Steering Committee Member

fburtnessadams@gmail.com
(907) 750-2011

YouTube: FranaBA

From: [Rep. Louise Stutes](#)
To: [House Fisheries](#)
Subject: FW: Oppose Abe Williams
Date: Tuesday, September 08, 2020 12:56:02 PM

From: cody larson <codyqlarson@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 03, 2020 12:53 PM
To: Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>
Subject: Oppose Abe Williams

Rep. Stutes,

I live in Dillingham, and do not trust Abe to make unbiased decisions on BOF. He has been very hostile in my conversations with him, and I feel he is too personally and emotionally invested in sabotaging organizations like the BBRSDA with the financial backing of PLP.

Sincerely,

Cody Larson

Call any time 843-1800

From: [Rep. Louise Stutes](#)
To: [House Fisheries](#)
Subject: FW: Testimony RE: Appointment of Williams to BOF
Date: Tuesday, September 08, 2020 12:55:11 PM

From: Glenna Gannon <glennagannon@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 03, 2020 2:00 PM
To: Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony RE: Appointment of Williams to BOF

Good afternoon,

I am writing as a VERY concerned citizen and fisherwoman over the appointment of Abe Williams to the Alaska Board of Fish. William's role as director of regional affairs for Pebble Mine is an ENORMOUS conflict of interest, and I have zero confidence that he will be able to responsibly and ethically make management decisions regarding Alaska's fisheries based on his position with Pebble Mine (of which he has made no indication that he will repeal himself if he sits on the BOF).

Dunleavy's appointment of this individual stands to cause havoc and more than likely result in the loss of millions of dollars of income for Alaskans, millions of dollars of revenues for the State and thousands of Alaskan's jobs. This is a shameful political move and threatens the very fabric of Alaska's economy and fishing lifeway. And for what, so one mine can get further pushed ahead even after Alaska's residents have been telling Northern Dynasty and our State representatives and legislators "NO" to pebble mine for decades??

I urge the legislature to reject the nomination and encourage the Governor to find a more suitable candidate that has the faith of fishermen and Alaskans in fulfilling the Board's important role in managing our fisheries.

Sincerely,
Glenna Gannon, MES.c

From: [McCarthy Kessler](#)
To: [House Fisheries](#)
Subject: Abe Williams Opposal
Date: Saturday, September 05, 2020 3:36:05 AM

I oppose the Abe Williams appoint because the conflict of interest with his active involvement with the Pebble Partnership will cloud his judgement when speaking for the citizens of Alaska which the partnership is a citizen of Canada.

Ardently,
McCarthy Kessler