

Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation

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Norman Van Vactor
Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation
P.O. Box 1464
Dillingham, Alaska 99576

Representative Louise Stutes
305 Center Avenue Ste. 1
Kodiak, AK 99615

RE: Board of Fisheries Members Appointees

Dear Representative Louise Stutes,

I am writing this letter to express our concerns for the recent Board of Fisheries (BoF) nominee selected by Governor Dunleavy, Abe Williams.

It is appalling that the Governor would appoint someone to the BoF that currently works for the Pebble Mine, particularly when the Board of Fisheries' main role is to conserve and develop the fishery resources of the State. This presents a huge conflict of interest, as a BoF member should not work for a highly controversial project that could devastate the ecosystem of Bristol Bay and economy of the salmon fishery.

It is heart-wrenching knowing that salmon returns in other parts of Alaska have been very poor this year. As you may know, Cordova has requested that the State and Federal government declare an economic disaster, and the sockeye fishery in the Chignik had one of the worst years in history. I cannot imagine the hardships those fishermen and communities will face. We are very fortunate that over 57 million sockeye have returned to Bristol Bay, and we hope the salmon will continue to return to support the local residents, fishermen, and economy.

One of the main reasons the Bristol Bay fishery has been so resilient and sustainable, is because of the genetic diversity of the salmon populations that spawn within the watershed. It is important for people to realize that the Pebble Project could destroy certain salmon populations, which would damage the genetic diversity of the two most prolific rivers in Bristol Bay, the Nushagak and the Kvichak. Furthermore, if Pebble Mine were to be developed, it could potentially disrupt the marketability of Bristol Bay salmon for future generations. This would undermine all the efforts that fishers have made to improve the quality and value of their catch, including the marketing endeavors by ASMI and BBRSDA.

Therefore, it is crucial NOT to confirm Abe Williams or anyone else to the Board of Fisheries that is closely tied to the Pebble Mine project. Especially knowing that the majority of Bristol Bay residents and fishers oppose the development of the mine because of the impact it could have on the fishery.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Norman Van Vactor, CEO