

Dear Representative Stutes,

Thank you for dedicating your time to represent Alaskans' concerns regarding transboundary mining and the risks posed to our downstream watershed interests. The health of our watersheds and way of life in Alaska, and our main economies in SE, ultimately depend on public involvement to protect clean water and habitat. Our economies largely depend on both commercial and sport fishing, visitor industry, scenic and whale and wildlife and bird viewing and photographing, And subsistence foods and fisheries are very important to our culture and health in SE Alaska. To sustain these healthy and abundant wild populations into the future, in our forest watersheds, estuaries, migratory bird paths, and tidal lands, we cannot accept anything but clean non-toxic water coming downstream from Canadian mines. Our whales swim all the way from Hawaii every year to feed up for the next year, consuming countless tons of marine life in SE waters. The amount they eat would greatly magnify any toxins left in the water from mining activities in Canada.

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. Canada cannot expect to have multiple mining industries to produce money for Canada, then send the resulting toxins down the watershed to ruin the quality of SE Alaska waters. The mines need to build into their plans, and pay for, any treatments necessary to assure SE Alaska waters remain clear of toxins.

Future generations will 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. SE Alaska is most famous for its wild and unspoiled state, and that is what draws visitors and fishermen here to our waters. If protected, they will continue to support and provide for us for many generations to come, but only with strict protections. Thank you for taking on this serious task.

Sincerely,

Jan Crichton

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