



March 11, 2010

Representative Alan Austerman  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, AK 99801

THE TENTH FLOOR  
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RE: HCR 15

Dear Representative Austerman:

Peter Pan Seafoods is a processor of Alaska seafood including Bristol Bay salmon. We operate the oldest continually operating cannery in Bristol Bay at our Dillingham plant as well as a shore support facility in Naknek. As such, we are directly invested in the continued health of the Bristol Bay sockeye runs and have intimately observed how these salmon are woven through the cultural and social fabric of the regions communities. We are very concerned about the proposed Pebble Mine's potential detrimental effects on the region and wholeheartedly support your Resolution HCR 15 which would expand our understanding of the environmental and socioeconomic consequences of such a project.

The potential scale of the Pebble Mine project, its mineral wealth and possible job and revenue creation is certainly enticing, especially to a region that is in such need of economic diversification. When it comes time to examine the permitting of this project, the proposed economic activity it generates will be impressive, perhaps even staggering. Because of this, it will be extremely important to have a full and accurate representation of this project's total cost to the environment, its resources and the people of the region to counterbalance. Bristol Bay sockeye is probably the most studied salmon stock, yet we still don't know what causes the cyclic fluctuations in the runs. We don't know why the Kvichak system, formally the largest producer in the region, has crashed over the last decade only to recently begin to recover. Further study likely will not uncover these determining factors but can highlight the level of uncertainty that exists even as developers talk of containing or mitigating potential damages.

We are also concerned about the effects this development may have outside the Bristol Bay region. As the desire for healthful food options has increased, the "Alaska brand" has become very important to consumers. The perception is of healthy food products that are natural, sustainable and come from a pristine environment. We've experienced what can happen when this perception is disrupted. While not as dramatic as an oil spill, the development of a large mining operation in such a sensitive area could be a permanent scar in maintaining the perception of the Alaska brand as it now stands.

We appreciate your efforts to focus public and legislative attention on this issue and the serious concerns so many have with the potential development of a large scale mining operation in the heart of the most productive salmon producing region in the world. We need a clear vision of the potential economic gains of this against the damage or loss of a precious continuously renewable resource, the social and cultural costs to the region that is intimately tied to these salmon, and the potential damage to the reputation of Alaska seafood as a whole.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barry D. Collier".

Barry D. Collier  
President and CEO  
Peter Pan Seafoods, Inc.

cc: Representative Bryce Edgmon  
Co-Sponsor HCR 15