



# Bristol Bay Native Corporation

*Enriching Our Native Way of Life*

111 W. 16th Avenue, Suite 400 / Anchorage, Alaska 99501-5109 / (907) 278-3602 / fax (907) 276-3925

March 18, 2010

Representative Bryce Edgmon  
Chair House Fisheries Committee  
State Capitol, Room 416  
Anchorage, AK 99801

Re: BOF Request for Large Mine Permitting Review

Dear Representative Edgmon:

On behalf of the Bristol Bay Native Corporation (BBNC) board of directors, I am writing in support of the Alaska Board of Fisheries request that the Legislature conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the State's large-scale mine permitting process. As a representative of over 8,500 shareholders with ties to the Bristol Bay region as well as 3 million acres of Bristol Bay land holdings that could potentially be affected by the Pebble Mine Development project we have an obligation to speak to this issue. BBNC is entrusted with preserving and enhancing our Native way of life, including but not limited to subsistence and commercial fishing.

To restate our formal position on resource development: although BBNC has passed a resolution specifically opposing the development of the Pebble Mine, we do not oppose responsible resource development in locations and manners that do not threaten the world class fish resources of Bristol Bay. We believe the potential benefits of the Pebble project are outweighed by the magnitude of the development as well as the unquantifiable risks associated.

A comprehensive review of the large mine permitting process should give Bristol Bay and Alaska residents, as well as the Legislature, comfort in knowing the process can properly scrutinize mining development of this magnitude. Currently, many Alaskans are questioning the systems in place as past administrations have "tinkered" with permitting oversight, causing uncertainty or at a minimum, confusion over what protections are now in place.

With your permission, BBNC would request this correspondence be included as public record for the Joint House Fisheries/Senate Resources Committee hearing scheduled for Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm.

Thank you for your consideration of this formal request to submit this statement of our support of the Board of Fisheries request to the Alaska State Legislature.

Sincerely,

Jason Metrokin  
President/CEO

Cc: House Fisheries Committee  
Senate Resources Committee  
BBNC Board of Directors