

REPRESENTATIVE DAN ORTIZ

Alaska State Legislature / Ketchikan, Saxman, Wrangell, Hydaburg, Metlakatla, Hyder, Loring and Meyers Chuck

SESSION ADDRESS:

Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Phone: 907-465-3824
Toll Free: 1-800-686-3824
Fax: 907-465-3175



INTERIM ADDRESS:

1900 First Avenue, Suite 310
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
Phone: 907-247-4672
907-465-5269
Fax: 907-225-8546

Sponsor Statement

House Joint Resolution 9: Canadian Mines on Transboundary Rivers

House Joint Resolution 9 declares the Alaska State Legislature's support for measures the U.S. Congress and the U.S. State Department can take to ensure that Alaskans and the State of Alaska have their voice heard in relationship to transboundary mining issues.

B.C. Canada is currently moving through the permitting process on at least four major mining projects that could potentially have negative impacts on the water quality of three major salmon producing river systems in Southeast, Alaska.

The following statistics come from the McDowell Group's July, 2013 study entitled "Economic Value of the Alaska Seafood Industry."

Including direct and secondary impacts, the commercial seafood industry accounts for 9% of all jobs in Alaska. In 2013, the industry provided full and part-time jobs to at least 78,300 people and paid out an estimated 2.3 billion in labor income, including all multiplier effects. In terms of the number of workers employed, the commercial seafood industry is the state's largest private sector employer.

In the Southeast Region, the seafood industry directly employs about 13,500 individuals within the region and generates an estimated \$321 million in labor income. On an average monthly basis, the seafood industry directly creates 6,500 jobs. The commercial fleet consists of 2,300 vessels and the region contains 45 registered shore-based processing facilities.

The purpose of HJR 9 is to highlight the potentially significant impact that the B.C. Mining Development projects may have on the Alaska seafood industry, a current key component in maintaining a healthy, thriving Alaskan economy.