



Council of
Alaska Producers

Comments on HJR9 Canadian Mines on Transboundary Rivers

March 9, 2017

Representative Louise Stutes
Chair, House Fisheries Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Stutes,

The Council of Alaska Producers (CAP) is writing to provide comments on HJR9 “Urging the United States government to continue to work with the government of Canada to investigate the long-term, region-wide downstream effects of proposed and existing industrial development and to develop measures to ensure that state resources are not harmed by upstream development in British Columbia.”

CAP is a non-profit trade association formed in 1992 and serves as a spokesperson for the large metal mines and major metal developmental projects in the state. Bringing together mining companies with interest in Alaska, the Council represents and informs members on legislative and regulatory issues, supports and advances the mining industry, educates members, the media, and the general public on mining related issues, and promotes economic opportunity and environmentally sound mining practices.

CAP supports collaboration and dialogue between the State of Alaska and the Province of British Columbia on mining development in British Columbia along rivers that flow from Canada into Alaska. This is the most appropriate means of ensuring that the interests of both jurisdictions and their citizens are understood and protected

For more than two years, Lt. Governor Mallott has shown great leadership in deepening the existing levels of communication and cooperation between the State of Alaska and the Province of British Columbia on this issue. This work has included an unprecedented level of outreach to stakeholder groups.

The 2015 Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation between the State of Alaska and the Province of British Columbia and the 2016 Statement of Cooperation on Protection of Transboundary Waters are both the results of this effort and the starting point for greater collaboration between the province and the state. In fact, the technical work has already begun.

The State of Alaska and the Province of British Columbia are the jurisdictions responsible for managing natural resources under the laws of the United States and Canada, respectively. As such, the state and province are the appropriate governmental entities to address transboundary natural resource issues. Seeking federal involvement through the Treaty would be contrary to the primary jurisdiction of Alaska and British Columbia over natural resources and would unnecessarily burden the cooperative relationship formalized in the Memorandum of Understanding and the Statement of Cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Matthias", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Karen Matthias
Executive Director