

Petersburg enjoys a ranking as one of the top 20 commercial fishing ports in the Nation, and as such is acutely aware of and concerned about threats to our clean water and healthy fish stocks. We noted during the first convening of the Lt. Governor's Transboundary Working Group that large scale mining in Canada is of primary concern to us; however, it was recognized that numerous historical and small scale mining activity--both past and present--add to the potential cumulative impacts happening in B.C. and downstream.

As Mayor Jensen stated in a September, 2016 open letter to the Juneau Empire, Alaskans bear all of the risk and none of the economic benefits for the many large mine projects occurring just over our border. For we downstream users, impacts to our fisheries are potentially catastrophic.

Alaska not only lacks the authority to investigate and mitigate impacts that may occur on these transboundary rivers, whether from past, active or proposed activities, it also does not have the financial resources to do so. This is not of concern only to Alaskans, however. Users on both sides of the border, be they commercial, subsistence or recreational, all have a stake in maintaining healthy river systems and fisheries.

To that end, Petersburg Borough supports HJR 9 and encourages urgent attention and continued involvement of the United States government in ongoing work with the government of Canada to insure adequate monitoring, minimization of and mitigation of any downstream impacts resulting from existing and any new industrial development along our transboundary river systems. Clean water and healthy fisheries are our lifeblood, and our legacy for future generations of Alaskans and Canadians.

Thank you,

Cindi Lagoudakis

Vice-Mayor, Petersburg