

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-4703**

January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The Honorable Michael Regan  
Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Administrator Regan,

I am writing to express my extreme concern about the proposed Pebble Mine in Bristol Bay, Alaska, which poses a severe threat to the fragile Bristol Bay watershed that supports the largest sockeye salmon run in the world. Each year, 40-60 million salmon, including all five Pacific salmon species, return to spawn in rivers that feed Bristol Bay. This tremendous salmon run supports 46% of the world's wild sockeye harvest, and in turn, Bristol Bay supports thousands of American fishing families.

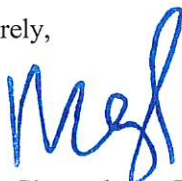
Bristol Bay salmon play a fundamental role in sustaining fishing families based in Alaska, the Pacific Northwest, and in my district in Washington state. Bristol Bay's watershed generates almost \$480 million and supports over 14,000 jobs, many of which are based in the state of Washington. Salmon fisheries are the bedrock of the success of Washington state's \$30 billion maritime economy because fisheries support commercial, Tribal, charter, recreational fishing jobs, as well as support businesses through shipbuilding, seafood processing, restaurants, tourism, and other businesses. Many salmon and crab fishermen in my district have permits in Bristol Bay, and the protection of this watershed and these species are critical to their livelihoods and our coastal economy.

I was encouraged by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 10 Proposed Determination under Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act because it would permanently protect Bristol Bay and the jobs that depend on it. Today, I am writing to encourage expeditious final review and approval of these proposed protections.

As you know, this authority allows the agency to restrict, prohibit, deny, or withdraw the use of an area as a disposal site for dredged or fill material if the discharge would have unacceptable adverse effects on municipal water supplies, shellfish beds and fishery areas, wildlife, or recreational areas. According to a study done by your agency, the EPA found that the mine would destroy 24 to 94 miles of waterways and salmon habitat and contaminate an additional 48 to 62 miles of the area's streams with toxic mine waste. These are clearly unacceptable adverse effects.

I have heard loud and clear from Washington state fishing families: the Pebble Mine poses a direct threat to salmon, fishing jobs, our economy, and the way of life on Washington's coast. Therefore, I urge the EPA to protect Bristol Bay as soon as possible. I thank you for your expeditious review.

Sincerely,



Marie Gluesenkamp Perez  
Member of Congress