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Governor Bill Walker
STATE OF ALASKA

June 29, 2018

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District
Program Manager, Regulatory Division
ATTN: DA Permit Application 2017-271, Pebble Limited Partnership
P.O. Box 6898
Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska 99506-0898

Submitted via Email: Shane McCoy at poaspecialprojects@usace.army.mil

Dear Mr. McCoy:

Alaska is a resource-rich state, and our prosperity depends on our ability to safely and efficiently bring those resources to market. As Governor and Lieutenant Governor, we will continue to champion efforts to do just that; whether it's drilling for oil in the 1002 region, expanding the Fort Knox mine, or building a natural gas pipeline. We appreciate the Army Corps of Engineers' ("Corps") work to advance resource development projects across the state in a thorough and timely manner.

But the Bristol Bay region is unique. It supports the largest wild sockeye salmon fishery in the world – supplying almost half of the global wild sockeye, and sustaining over 10,000 jobs. For many communities in the region, abundant salmon runs, clean water, and ecologically intact landscapes provide more than a paycheck, they sustain a treasured way of life that has existed for generations. That is why steps have been taken to protect Bristol Bay waters from offshore oil drilling, and why the people of Alaska voted that any large-scale metallic sulfide mine within the Fisheries Reserve must be approved by the Legislature.

Given the unique characteristics of the region, the mine proposed by Pebble Limited Partnership (PLP) must be held to an extraordinarily high standard. I thank you for previously extending the scoping period, as requested in a letter from Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Mack to Colonel Michael Brooks. However, the PLP has yet to demonstrate to us or the Alaska public that they have proposed a feasible and realistic project. Without, at minimum a preliminary economic assessment, but preferably a pre-feasibility study, the Corps will be unable to take a hard look at all reasonable alternatives in the draft EIS.

¹ Available at <https://www.pebbleprojecteis.com/overview/projectoverview>.

Mr. Shane McCoy
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In addition to the comments submitted by the State of Alaska Office of Project Management and Permitting, we are submitting this letter to voice ongoing concerns regarding the readiness of the proposed Pebble project to move forward, and respectfully request that the Corps suspend the EIS process.

Sincerely,



Bill Walker
Governor

U.



Byron Mallott
Lieutenant Governor

¹ Available at <https://www.pebbleprojecteis.com/overview/projectoverview>.