



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor, Lieutenant Governor urge Army Corps to suspend EIS process for Pebble Project
Too many unanswered questions for important review to advance further

June 30, 2018 ANCHORAGE – Governor Bill Walker and Lieutenant Governor Byron Mallott on Friday submitted comments to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers requesting that the Corps suspend the Environmental Impact Statement (“EIS”) process for the mine proposed by Pebble Limited Partnership.

“The Bristol Bay region is unique,” **Walker and Mallott** wrote. “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. [...] Given the unique characteristics of the region, the mine proposed by Pebble Limited Partnership must be held to an extraordinarily high standard.”

In the letter, Walker and Mallott also re-affirm their longstanding commitment to safely and efficiently bring Alaska’s many other natural resources to market, including drilling for oil in the 1002 region of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, expanding Fort Knox Mine, and building a natural gas pipeline.

An EIS is the most comprehensive level of National Environmental Policy Act documentation and helps make a decision on whether or not development projects significantly impacting the environment move forward.

The Administration believes the important review should not advance now because Pebble has not demonstrated to Alaskans that the proposed mine is feasible and realistic. Without a preliminary economic assessment, the Corps would be unable to thoroughly vet alternative plans of development.

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