To: Dunbar, Bill[dunbar.bill@epa.gov]
From: Tim Bristol, Trout Unlimited
Sent: Wed 7/10/2013 5:05:13 PM
Subject: Bristol Bay in the News July 10, 2013

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Bristol Bay in the News July 10, 2013

Analysis of the comments received during EPA's second comment period on the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment shows an overwhelming majority of nearly 70% support the Assessment and protection for Bristol Bay from mining on a massive scale. Comments – currently numbering more than 650,000 – continue to be loaded on the federal docket, with a high likelihood of support numbers growing.

As noted in stories in the *Washington Post* and *Mother Jones* magazine, the vast majority of comments critical of EPA's Assessment came from Resourceful Earth, a Washington, D.C. based project funded by the Koch Brothers, Exxon Mobil, mining companies and others.

An editorial in the *Bellingham Herald* and *Tacoma News Tribune* in Washington state says the risks are too great with the planned Pebble Mine, and the EPA should use its power under the Clean Water Act to deny a required federal permit for the project. The editorial board asks: "What happens if the mining companies involved go out of business? Whose responsibility will it be to ensure the dams don't fail? And who pays for damages if they do?"

Lastly, the Center for American Progress issued a position statement on Bristol Bay that says the Pebble mine threatens the region's sustainable economy and way of life. They urge the EPA to finalize its Watershed Assessment soon and say the agency should proactively "identify any areas that are too sensitive to serve as mining-waste dumps…"

For more information, visit savebristolbay.org

Tim Bristol

Trout Unlimited Alaska Director

The Koch brothers take on enviro groups over mine

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Juliet Eilperin
The Washington Post
As the Environmental Protection Agency seeks public comment on how to gauge the environmental impact of a proposed gold and copper mine in the Bristol Bay watershed, hundreds of thousands of Americans have weighed in on one side or another...Click here to read more

Don't threaten salmon habitat with huge Alaska mine

Editorial
Bellingham Herald and *The News Tribune*
Two foreign companies want to open an immense gold and copper mine in Alaska that would create 2,500 construction jobs and generate up to $180 million annually in taxes and royalties...Click here to read more

Mining in Alaska's Bristol Bay region threatens a Sustainable Economy

Jessica Goad, Shiva Polefka, Michael Conathan, and Christy Goldfuss
American Progress

The battle lines are being drawn for what is becoming one of America's largest natural-resources fights in decades, pitting the mining industry against defenders of a way of life and an economy that are inextricably linked to one of the United States' most intact and productive ecosystems...Click here to read more

Is this Conservative Think Tank Astroturfing the EPA to Approve Pebble Mine?

Kate Sheppard
Mother Jones
Are pro-mining forces trying to sway the Environmental Protection Agency on Pebble Mine? Last month, I reported on the potential environmental threats posed by the massive proposed gold and copper mine in Alaska...Click here to read more

Lobbying heats up in Fight over Alaska Mine

Lauren Gardner
Roll Call
Both sides in the fight over a proposed hard-rock mine near Alaska's Bristol Bay are ratcheting up their public relations efforts, as the EPA's comment period for a draft ecological risk assessment of the watershed draws to a close at the end of June. The EPA is being asked to use its rarely exercised veto authority under the Clean Water Act...Click here to read more

Senators urge Obama to Block Alaskan Mine they say threatens Fisheries

Agence France-Presse
Industry Week
WASHINGTON - Five Senate Democrats are calling on President Barack Obama to consider blocking construction of a copper mine in Alaska, arguing it could jeopardize the pristine environment of America's biggest salmon fishery...Click here to read more

Opinion: There's still time to stop Pebble Mine

Cary Kopczynski
Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce
Natural areas of exceptional beauty and geographical significance are worth preserving, places like Mount Rainier, the Olympics, Yellowstone and the Grand Canyon. The recreational and spiritual value they provide far exceeds whatever monetary value may be derived by exploiting their natural resources...Click here to read more

Have you heard the one about the Pebble Mine?

Joel Reynolds
The Hill
Three foreign mining executives walk into a bar and say to anyone who'll listen, "we want to dig one of the largest open pit mines on Earth in the middle of Alaska's world class wild salmon fishery. We promise not to hurt the fishery or interfere with the 22,000 jobs and $1.5 billion it generates each year...Click here to read more

Caution on Bristol Bay

Washington Post Editorial
The Daily Camera
In the rivers, streams and wetlands of southwest Alaska, tens of millions of bright pink fish swim upstream every year to spawn. The watershed area around Bristol Bay is one of the last unspoiled habitats in the world, home to moose, bears, caribou and, yes, sockeye salmon. It's also now at the center of one of the nation's largest conservation battles...Click here to read more

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