July 31, 2013

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

We would like to congratulate you on your recent confirmation as Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Based on your previous public service in Massachusetts, Connecticut and your previous position as EPA Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation, you have shown a commitment to policies that safeguard public health and promote clean water resources. We know you will make an outstanding administrator.

Without question, you are taking the reins of the EPA at a critical time. Topping the list of decisions that the EPA must address is ensuring that the nation's waters in Alaska's Bristol Bay region– the world's largest wild sockeye salmon fishery – are protected from potentially devastating hard rock mining development like the proposed Pebble Mine. As you know, the agency recently completed a public comment period for the draft Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment and is set to release its final assessment by the end of the year. As the draft watershed assessment has already made abundantly clear, Bristol Bay's salmon and large scale mining simply cannot coexist.

As the agency you now lead mulls future regulatory decisions regarding Bristol Bay, we encourage you to visit the region to fully understand this ecological and economic wonder. As you may know, Bristol Bay is responsible for 14,000 jobs supported by its commercial and sport fisheries, hunting lands, and other recreational areas. According to a recent study, the Bristol Bay commercial sockeye fishery alone provides an estimated $1.5 billion in annual economic value.

Again, congratulations on your confirmation, and we hope you will take the time to visit Bristol Bay and see firsthand what the proposed Pebble Mine would threaten. We look forward to a strong a productive

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relationship with you on this issue and others. Thank you for your willingness to serve in this very important position.

Sincerely,

Bob Waldrop,
Executive Director,
Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Assn