Message

From: Jason Metrokin [jmetrokin@BBNC.NET]
Sent: 1/31/2018 12:29:06 AM
To: Pruitt, Scott [Pruitt.Scott@epa.gov]
CC: Forsgren, Lee [Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov]; Hladick, Christopher [hladick.christopher@epa.gov]; Fordham, Tami [Fordham.Tami@epa.gov]; Daniel L. Cheyette [dcheyette@BBNC.NET]; Joseph Chythlook [jchythlook@BBNC.NET]; Jason Metrokin [jmetrokin@BBNC.NET]
Subject: Thank you from Bristol Bay Native Corporation

Administrator Pruitt,

On behalf of Bristol Bay Native Corporation, thank you for the action taken on Friday to suspend further consideration of the July 2017 proposal to rescind the 2014 Proposed Determination concerning Bristol Bay. BBNC and its 10,300+ shareholders have ancestral ties to the Bristol Bay region of Alaska. As you may already know, for longer than a decade Bristol Bay has been coping with the economic uncertainty posed by the proposed Pebble mine. EPA's action Friday, will reassure our shareholders that the Federal government understands the importance of the region's commercial, subsistence and sport fisheries and will step forward as necessary to protect those fishery resources when threatened by external risks.

This issue is of paramount importance because Bristol Bay's fisheries are a cornerstone of our local, state, and national economy. By protecting Bristol Bay, you are standing up to support the nearly 20,000 American jobs and nearly $1.5 billion in national economic activity generated by the commercial fisheries. The region is also home to a multitude of hunting and fishing lodges that employ hundreds of guides, pilots and lodge staff and add an additional $60 million to the region's economy. Lastly, Bristol Bay's fish and wildlife resources supply subsistence harvests that sustain the region's residents year after year.

Should the Pebble Limited Partnership proceed with Clean Water Act permitting, please ensure the permitting process is robust. EPA should fully engage as a cooperating agency and use its authority under 404(q) to demand that Assistant Secretary of the Army review all permit decisions by the Corps of Engineers Alaska District Office.

I understand you have visited Bristol Bay in the past. I hope you will make every effort to come back and be reminded first-hand the tremendous fishery resources of the region.

Again thank you for the action on Friday.

Regards,

Jason Metrokin
President & CEO
Bristol Bay Native Corporation
111 W 16th Avenue, Suite 400
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone: 907.278.3602
Fax: 907.276.3924
www.bbnc.net

Bristol Bay Native Corporation is a responsible Alaska Native investment corporation dedicated to the mission of "Enriching Our Native Way of Life." Established through the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, BBNC works to protect the land in Bristol Bay, celebrate the legacy of its people, and enhance the lives of its shareholders.