Matt Leopold, General Counsel
phone: 202-564-8040
Email: leopold.matt@epa.gov
Mailing Address:
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of General Counsel 2310A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Chris Hladick, Regional Administrator for the Pacific Northwest and Alaska Region
Phone: 800-424-4372 or 206-553-1234
Email: hladick.christopher@epa.gov
Mailing Address:
U.S. EPA, Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155
Seattle, WA 98101

August 11, 2020

Re: Please deny the permit for the proposed Pebble Mine in Bristol Bay

WE HAVE TO STOP DESTROYING THE ENVIRONMENT! I am writing today to advocate for the preservation of Bristol Bay, Alaska, the largest and most important salmon region on earth. It is urgent that we ask the EPA to veto the permit to develop the Pebble Mine in the Bristol Bay watershed and thereby uphold its *"core mission of protecting human health and the environment... committed to providing clean and safe air, water, and land for all Americans."*

Often called one of the world's great migrations, all five Eastern Pacific salmon species make the journey to spawn in the Bristol Bay's freshwater tributaries. Fed by five major rivers, the watershed supports a deeply complex ecosystem as well as a $280m annual commercial and sport fishing industry that employs 14,000 people. In addition, many indigenous tribes harvest fish in order to maintain a traditional subsistence-based lifestyle.

As part of the permitting process to allow development of the Pebble Mine in Bristol Bay, The US Army Corps of Engineers completed its Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) in July 2020. It found that the proposed 20-year mine plan (as opposed to the 75-year plan previously proposed) would threaten and permanently impact over 2,300 acres of wetlands and 105 miles of streams; however, it concluded that the cumulative effects on commercial and recreational fisheries would be "minor to moderate." This conclusion is simply not a credible scientific assessment of the true risk that the Pebble Mine poses to the Bristol Bay region and its world class fishery. The FEIS disregards years of EPA led peer-reviewed science and accumulated knowledge that the EPA already determined in 2014 posed "unacceptable" impacts to the region. In spite of the evidence reported in the FEIS, the US Army Corps of Engineers is taking steps to issue a permit to go forward with the development of the mine.

The EPA has the authority to approve, but also to veto this permit. When Congress passed the Clean Water Act, it created the 404(c) provision to protect outstanding natural resources like Bristol Bay. **There has never been a more important time to ask the EPA to use its power to veto the permit for development of the Pebble Mine with a 404(c) veto.**

Please join me and many thousands of Americans, including 62% of Alaskans, other non-profits, indigenous people, and commercial and sports fishermen, in protecting this national treasure.

Sincerely,

Roger A. Dailey, MD, FACS