ALABAMA RIVERS ALLIANCE * ALAMOSA RIVERKEEPER * ALASKA COMMUNITY ACTION ON TOXICS * ALASKA ENVIRONMENT * ALASKA WILDERNESS LEAGUE * ALASKA WILDLIFE ALLIANCE * ALASKANS TAKE A STAND * AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY * AMIGOS DE BOLSA CHICA * ANTHROPOCENE ALLIANCE * AQUASHICOLA/POHOPOCO WATERSHED CONSERVANCY * ASSOCIATION OF NORTHWEST STEELHEADERS * ATCHAFALAYA BASINKEEPER * BACKCOUNTRY HUNTERS AND ANGLERS * BAYOU CITY WATERKEEPER * BLACK HILLS CLEAN WATER ALLIANCE * BLACK WARRIOR RIVERKEEPER * BOZEMAN BIRDERS * BRISTOL BAY HERITAGE LAND TRUST * BRISTOL BAY REGIONAL SEAFOOD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION * BROOKS RANGE COUNCIL * CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY * CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & POLICY * CITIZENS AGAINST WIDENING THE INDUSTRIAL CANAL * CITIZENS COMMITTEE TO COMPLETE THE REFUGE * COLLIER COUNTY WATERKEEPER * COLUMBIA RIVER CRAB FISHERMAN'S ASSOCIATION * COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN FOR BRISTOL BAY * COMMITTEE ON THE MIDDLE FORK VERMILION RIVER * COOK INLETKEEPER * CREATION JUSTICE MINISTRIES * DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE * DESCHUTES ESTUARY RESTORATION TEAM * DON'T GAS THE MEADOWLANDS COALITION * EARTH ETHICS, INC. * EARTHJUSTICE * EARTHWORKS * ENDANGERED HABITATS LEAGUE * ENVIRONMENT AMERICA * ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY (US) * ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INFORMATION CENTER * FAIRBANKS CLIMATE ACTION COALITION * FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION * FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL * FRIENDS OF BLACKWATER, INC. * FRIENDS OF MCNEIL RIVER * FRIENDS OF THE EARTH * GLEN ELLYN SUSTAINABILITY * GREAT EGG HARBOR WATERSHED ASSOCIATION * GREENPEACE USA * HEALTHY OCEAN COALITION * HOWLING FOR WOLVES * HUDSON RIVERKEEPER * IDAHO RIVERS UNITED * ILLINOIS COUNCIL OF TROUT UNLIMITED * INLAND OCEAN COALITION * KANSAS CITY ZOO * KENTUCKY WATERWAYS ALLIANCE * KLAMATH FOREST ALLIANCE *LEVEES.ORG * LAKE ERIE WATERKEEPER * LEAD AGENCY, INC. * LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS * MALACH CONSULTING * MARINE CONSERVATION INSTITUTE * MILL CREEK ALLIANCE * MISSION BLUE * MISSOURI CONFLUENCE WATERKEEPER * MN DIVISION – IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA * MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM * MULTICULTURAL ALLIANCE FOR A SAFE ENVIRONMENT * MYSTIC AQUARIUM * NATIONAL AQUARIUM * NATIONAL MISSISSIPPI RIVER MUSEUM & AQUARIUM * NATIONAL OCEAN PROTECTION COALITION * NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION * NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION * NATIVE AMERICAN RIGHTS FUND * NATURAL HERITAGE INSTITUTE * NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL * NEBRASKA WILDLIFE FEDERATION * NORTHEASTERN MINNESOTANS FOR WILDERNESS * NYC H2O * OCEANA * OKANOGAN HIGHLANDS ALLIANCE * PATAGONIA * PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES * POTOMAC RIVERKEEPER NETWORK * PROGRESSIVE LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE OF NEVADA * RESTORE AMERICA'S ESTUARIES * RIVERKEEPER * ROUGE RIVERKEEPER * SACRAMENTO RIVER COUNCIL * SALMONSTATE * SATILLA RIVERKEEPER * SAVE OUR WILD SALMON COALITION * SAVE THE SCENIC SANTA RITAS * SAVE THE SOUND * SEATTLE AQUARIUM * SENECA LAKE GUARDIAN * SEVERN RIVERKEEPER PROGRAM * SIERRA CLUB * SILVER VALLEY COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER * SOUTH YUBA RIVER CITIZENS LEAGUE * STAND UP ALASKA * SUWANNEE RIVERKEEPER * TENNESSEE RIVERKEEPER * THE ALASKA CENTER * THE CONSERVATION FUND * THE NATURE CONSERVANCY * THE OCEAN PROJECT * THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY * WATAUGA RIVERKEEPER * WATER-CULTURE INSTITUTE * WATERKEEPER ALLIANCE * WATERKEEPERS CHESAPEAKE * WATERWAY ADVOCATES * WILD SALMON CENTER * WILL DILG CHAPTER, IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA * WINYAH RIVERS ALLIANCE * WORLD WILDLIFE FUND * YELLOW DOG WATERSHED PRESERVE

January 11, 2023

Via Email

Honorable Radhika Fox
Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20460
radhika.fox@epa.gov

Re: Supporting EPA's Issuance of a Clean Water Act Final Determination that Protects Bristol Bay from the Pebble Mine

Dear Assistant Administrator Fox:

On behalf of the 122 undersigned organizations, representing tens of millions of members and supporters from across the country, we write to commend EPA Region 10 Regional Administrator Casey Sixkiller for issuing a Recommended Determination for the Pebble Deposit Area under Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act that, if finalized, would prohibit the Pebble

Mine and restrict future mining of the Pebble deposit.[1] We urge EPA to promptly issue a Final Determination.

This letter supports and amplifies repeated requests from United Tribes of Bristol Bay (UTBB) and others, including our organizations, calling on EPA to finalize strong and durable protections for Bristol Bay and the people who depend on it:

> After twenty years of Pebble hanging over our heads, the Biden Administration has the opportunity to follow through on its commitments by finalizing comprehensive, durable protections for our region as soon as possible.[2]

Bristol Bay is home to the world's largest wild sockeye salmon fishery, generating $2.2 billion annually, supporting 15,000 American jobs, supplying 57 percent of the world's wild sockeye salmon, and sustaining Indigenous communities for thousands of years.[3] Last summer alone the fishery produced an unprecedented run of more than 78 million fish. Yet the Pebble Mine continues to risk it all.

The facts, science, and administrative record—as well as millions of people over the past decade—overwhelmingly support a 404(c) determination that protects Bristol Bay's headwaters from the Pebble Mine. Our groups urge EPA to expeditiously issue a Final Determination that ensures strong, durable, and comprehensive protection for Bristol Bay—and the people and wildlife it supports.

Sincerely,

Jack West, Policy and Advocacy Director
Alabama Rivers Alliance

Cindy Medina, Alamosa Riverkeeper
Alamosa Riverkeeper

Pamela Miller, Executive Director
Alaska Community Action on Toxics

Dyani Chapman, State Director
Alaska Environment

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[1] *Recommended Determination of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 Pursuant to Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act Pebble Deposit Area, Southwest Alaska* (Dec. 2022), https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-12/Pebble-Deposit-Area-404c-RD-Dec2022.pdf.

[2] Statement by Alannah Hurley, UTBB Executive Director, *Bristol Bay Tribes Urge EPA to End the Threat of Pebble Mine* (Dec. 1 2022), https://www.utbb.org/press-releases-archive/for-immediate-release-bristol-bay-tribes-urge-epa-to-end-the-threat-of-pebble-mine.

[3] McKinley Research Group, *The Economic Benefits of Bristol Bay Salmon* (Feb. 2021), https://stoppebbleminenow.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Final-Economic-Benefit-of-Bristol-Bay-Salmon-3_17_21.pdf

Andy Moderow, State Director
Alaska Wilderness League

Nicole Schmitt, Executive Director
Alaska Wildlife Alliance

Erin Jackson-Hill, President
Alaskans Take a Stand

Steve Holmer, Vice President of Policy
American Bird Conservancy

Thomas Anderson, Administrative Director
Amigos de Bolsa Chica

Harriet Festing, Executive Director
Anthropocene Alliance

Carolyn Lange, Secretary
Aquashicola/Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy

Tamsin Fleming, Operations Manager
Association of Northwest Steelheaders

Dean Wilson, Executive Director
Atchafalaya Basinkeeper

Jacob Mannix, Alaska Chapter Coordinator
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

Kristen Schlemmer, Legal Director and Waterkeeper
Bayou City Waterkeeper

Lilias Jarding, Ph.D., Executive Director
Black Hills Clean Water Alliance

Charles Scribner, Executive Director
Black Warrior Riverkeeper

Anne Millbrooke, Volunteer
Bozeman Birders

Tim Troll, Executive Director
Bristol Bay Heritage Land Trust

Andy Wink, Executive Director
Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association

John Gaedeke, Chairman
Brooks Range Council

Marc Fink, Public Lands Legal Director, Senior Attorney
Center for Biological Diversity

Trish Rolfe, Executive Director
Center for Environmental Law & Policy

John Koeferl
Citizens Against Widening the Industrial Canal

Carin High, Co-Chair
Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge

Harrison Langley, Executive Director
Collier County Waterkeeper

Dale Beasley, President
Columbia River Crab Fisherman's Association

Katherine Carscallen, Executive Director
Commercial Fishermen for Bristol Bay

Clark Bullard, President
Committee on the Middle Fork Vermilion River

Liz Mering, Advocacy Director
Cook Inletkeeper

Helen Smith, Ocean Climate Action Associate
Creation Justice Ministries

Nicole Whittington-Evans, Alaska Program Director
Defenders of Wildlife

Paige Anderson, Executive Director
Deschutes Estuary Restoration Team

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Don't Gas the Meadowlands Coalition

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Earth Ethics, Inc.

Blaine Miller-Mcfeeley, Senior Legislative Representative
Earthjustice

Bonnie Gestring, Northwest Program Director
Earthworks

Dan Silver, Executive Director
Endangered Habitats League

Ellen Montgomery, Public Lands Campaign Director
Environment America

Danielle Grabiel, Counsel & Wildlife Team Lead
Environmental Investigation Agency (US)

Thomas Wheeler, Executive Director
Environmental Protection Information Center

Arleigh Hitchcock, Keep It In The Ground (KING!) Organizer
Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition

Preston T. Robertson, President and CEO
Florida Wildlife Federation

Tom Logan, Chairman, Fly Fishers International Conservation Committee
Fly Fishers International

Judith Rodd, Director
Friends of Blackwater, Inc.

Drew Hamilton, President of the Board
Friends of McNeil River

Marcie Keever, Oceans & Vessels Program Director
Friends of the Earth

Jeff Gahris, Organizer
Glen Ellyn Sustainability

Fred Akers, Administrator
Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association

John Hocevar, Oceans Campaign Director
Greenpeace USA

Sarah Winter Whelan, Executive Director
Healthy Ocean Coalition

Maureen Hackett, Founder and President
Howling For Wolves

George Jackman, Senior Habitat Restoration Manager
Hudson Riverkeeper

Nic Nelson, Executive Director
Idaho Rivers United

Edward L Michael, Chair, Government Affairs
Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited

Lance Kittel, Executive Director
Inland Ocean Coalition

Stacia Pieroni, Conservation Manager
Kansas City Zoo

Ward G Wilson, Executive Director
Kentucky Waterways Alliance

Kimberly Baker, Executive Director
Klamath Forest Alliance

Sandy Rosenthal, Founder
Levees.org

Sandy Bihn, Executive Director
Lake Erie Waterkeeper

Earl Hatley, President
LEAD Agency, Inc.

Madeleine Foote, Deputy Legislative Director
League of Conservation Voters

Steven Emerman, Owner
Malach Consulting

Michael Gravitz, Director of Policy and Legislation
Marine Conservation Institute

David Schmitt, Executive Director
Mill Creek Alliance

Shannon Rake, Hope Spots Program Manager
Mission Blue

Rachel Bartels, Waterkeeper
Missouri Confluence Waterkeeper

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MN Division - Izaak Walton League of America

Eleanore Humphries, Senior Manager, Federal Ocean Conservation Policy
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Susan Gordon, Coordinator
Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment

Katie Cubina, Sr. V.P of Mission Programs
Mystic Aquarium

Jennifer Driban, Chief Mission Officer
National Aquarium

Kurt Strand, President and CEO
National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium

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National Ocean Protection Coalition

Jim Adams, Alaska Regional Director
National Parks Conservation Association

Melissa Samet, Senior Water Resources Counsel
National Wildlife Federation

John E. Echohawk, Executive Director
Native American Rights Fund

Gerald H. Meral, Ph.D., Director, California Water Program
Natural Heritage Institute

Taryn Kiekow Heimer, Senior Advocate & Deputy Director of Marine Mammal Protection
Natural Resources Defense Council

Mike Coe, President
Nebraska Wildlife Federation

Matt Norton, Policy Director
Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness

Matt Malina, Director & Founder
NYC H2O

Susan Murray, Deputy Vice President, US Pacific
Oceana

Sarah Kliegman, co-Executive Director
Okanogan Highlands Alliance

Meghan Wolf, Environmental Activism Manager
Patagonia

Rev. Sandra L. Strauss, Director of Advocacy & Ecumenical Outreach
Pennsylvania Council of Churches

Nancy Stoner, President
Potomac Riverkeeper Network

Sarah Wochele, Mining Justice Organizer
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada

Daniel Hayden, President & CEO
Restore America's Estuaries

George Jackman, Senior Habitat Restoration Manager
Riverkeeper

Emily Bowes, Conservation Director
Rogue Riverkeeper

Trygve Sletteland, Founder
Sacramento River Council

Tim Bristol, Executive Director
SalmonState

Chris Bertrand, Riverkeeper and Executive Director
Satilla Riverkeeper

Joseph Bogaard, Executive Director
Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition

Stu Williams, Executive Director
Save The Scenic Santa Ritas

Bill Lucey, Long Island Soundkeeper
Save The Sound

Nora Nickum, Senior Ocean Policy Manager
Seattle Aquarium

Yvonne Taylor , Vice President
Seneca Lake Guardian

Fred Kelly, Executive Director
Severn Riverkeeper Program

Peter Morgan, Senior Attorney
Sierra Club

Barbara Miller, Director
Silver Valley Community Resource Center

Melinda Booth, Executive Director
South Yuba River Citizens League

Erin Jackson, Board President
Stand Up Alaska (S'Up AK)

John S. Quarterman, Suwannee Riverkeeper
Suwannee Riverkeeper

David Whiteside, Executive Director
Tennessee Riverkeeper

Leah Moss, Communications and Creative Director
The Alaska Center

Lawrence A. Selzer, President & CEO
The Conservation Fund

Kelsey Schober, Senior Policy Advisor – Alaska
The Nature Conservancy

Bill Mott, Exec Director
The Ocean Project

Karlin Itchoak, Alaska State Director
The Wilderness Society

Andy Hill, Watauga Riverkeeper
Watauga Riverkeeper

David Groenfeldt, Director
Water-Culture Institute

Bart Mihailovich, Organizing Director
Waterkeeper Alliance

Robin Broder, Deputy Director
Waterkeepers Chesapeake

Caleb Merendino, Co-Executive Director
Waterway Advocates

Emily Anderson, Alaska Director
Wild Salmon Center

Barry Drazkowski, President
Will Dilg Chapter, Izaak Walton League of America

Debra Buffkin, Executive Director
Winyah Rivers Alliance

Rose Luttenberger, Senior Policy Advocate
World Wildlife Fund

Chauncey J. Moran, Board Chairman
Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve

CC: Mr. Casey Sixkiller, Regional Administrator, Region 10
EPA