U.S. EPA, Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155
Seattle, WA 98101

RE: Finalize Protections for Bristol Bay in 2022

Dear EPA Region 10 Administrator,

My name is _____ and I live in _____.

I'm writing to call upon the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to fulfill its responsibility to complete Section 404 (c) of the Clean Water Act process and reach a Final Determination for Bristol Bay this year. I support permanently protecting this national treasure from the threat of mines like Pebble. The EPA cannot allow toxic mining waste to be stored at the headwaters of our fishery.

The Bristol Bay watershed is more than just home for the largest wild sockeye salmon runs in the world, it is the lifeline for the people of Bristol Bay and all those who depend on it. Bristol Bay's wild salmon have been the foundation of Alaska Native culture in the region for thousands of years and continues to support the largest wild salmon commercial fishery on earth, producing half of the world's commercial supply of wild sockeye salmon, sustaining 15,000 annual jobs, and generating roughly $2.2 billion in annual economic activity.

The majority of Alaskans support EPA action to end the threat of Pebble and want to see Bristol Bay protected for good. It is time for the EPA to expedite the 404(c) process and finalize protections this year. The 404(c) protections should prevent Pebble, and other potential large mining operations like it, from storing or disposing of mining waste at the headwaters of our fishery. The EPA's action must protect several critical sub watersheds: the North Fork Koktuli, South Fork Koktuli and Upper Talarik Creek, all of which support the productivity of Bristol Bay's wild salmon and are under threat from Pebble and large-scale mines like it.

The threat of toxic large-scale hard rock mining, such as the proposed Pebble Mine, will continue to loom over Bristol Bay until permanent protections are secured for the region. Years of scientific study and review and a robust administrative record all support the EPA protecting this national treasure. Please finalize Clean Water Act protections for the region this year. Future generations should not have to live with the threat of mining that would devastate our cultures, communities, and sustainable economy. Please finish the job and ensure that Bristol Bay's pristine lands and waters are protected in perpetuity.

Sincerely,

Name: _____ City, State: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____