

The attached letter was sent individually to the following six Canadian officials who met with Senator Sullivan and Lt. Governor Mallott at meetings in Ottawa and followup meetings with Senator Sullivan in Washington DC regarding mining development in British Columbia:

Honourable James Carr, Minister of Natural Resources

Honourable Terry Beech, Parliamentary Secretary - Fisheries and Oceans

Jeff Hutchinson, Commissioner, Canadian Coast Guard

Honourable Andrew Leslie, Parliamentary State Secretary

Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change

Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown - Indigenous Relations & Northern Affairs



# UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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March 30, 2018

Honourable Andrew Leslie  
Parliamentary State Secretary  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6  
Canada

Dear Sir,

United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) is the statewide commercial fishing trade association, representing 35 commercial fishing organizations participating in fisheries throughout the state of Alaska, and the U.S. federal fisheries off Alaska's coast. UFA would like to express our appreciation for your participation in discussions recently with Alaska's U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan concerning mining development in British Columbia. We applaud the assembly of key players expressing concern for transboundary issues. We hope this is just the beginning of continued discussions and solutions.

The Taku River watershed is of vital importance to Southeast Alaska. Taku salmon support commercial fisheries with an average \$4.2 million in first wholesale value and a total annual output of at least \$6 million with approximately 400 people earning income from the commercial harvest. The Taku River is Southeast Alaska's single largest producer of all species of salmon, and the largest producer of king and coho salmon. On average, 40% of the region's king salmon originate in the Taku River.

As you are aware, the abandoned Tulsequah Chief Mine located in B.C. is detrimental to the health of the Taku River. For 60 years the mine has been pouring toxic, heavy metal laden acid mine drainage into the Taku watershed, Northern Southeast Alaska's most productive salmon river. The ongoing pollution is in violation of the Canadian Fisheries Act, B.C. mine permits and water quality standards, and an agreement with the Taku River Tlingit First Nation. The Tulsequah Chief has created a decades-long controversy between Canada and the United States. Concerns that began 20 years ago with Tulsequah Chief have now broadened across the entire transboundary region. Cleaning up the Tulsequah Chief is a necessary step in rebuilding trust in B.C.'s mining regulations and regulators.

For decades B.C.'s strategy to clean up the acid mine drainage from the Tulsequah Chief was to seek a new mine operator to re-open the mine and then eventually clean it up. Two companies experienced failed attempts to reopen it, bankrupting both companies. It appears now the mine is no longer viable, and is a huge environmental and political liability; the only answer seems to be to clean it up and close it down. However, there is not yet any specific commitment from British Columbia that the province will assume responsibility for the cleanup, and no timeline for action. It's time for B.C. to move from words to real actions.

The State of Alaska, the Alaska congressional delegation, the U.S. State Department and the Environmental Protection Agency are now working together to address concerns from Alaskans about impacts from upstream B.C. mining. We appreciate the increased attention Tulsequah Chief Mine cleanup is getting from both B.C. and Canada, but action is due.

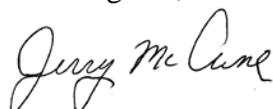
Alaska Lt. Gov. Mallott and Alaska Senator Sullivan recently returned from a trip to Ottawa where Tulsequah Chief was a major issue. Mallott said, "Hopefully this will continue to create the kind of focus on the Tulsequah Chief mine that we raised in the last two years. Recognizing that the mine has been spewing water -waste water -for almost half a century, and we've got this focused at a level now that has never been focused on before." He also said Canada "needs to act and act very soon...If it goes too much longer without forward movement, I think we have legitimate reason to be fairly aggressive in our continuing conversations with the Canadians."

We understand that Canadian officials also had a second follow-up meeting with Senator Sullivan and the Senator was encouraged by the discussion regarding the cleanup of Tulsequah Chief. We are appreciative of recent statements from B.C. and Canadian officials about mine cleanup and their hope to move forward. However, we have yet to see definite and specific commitments, schedules, timelines, or plans. British Columbia and Canada must move from words to real actions. British Columbia officials have made a number of verbal commitments to stop the acid mine drainage, but as six Alaska legislators wrote to Governor Walker last June, "We are concerned because B.C. has given such verbal 'assurances' for more than 20 years, yet very little has been done to end the acid runoff."

Now is the time to end a 60 year legacy of pollution. We urge the government of Canada to work closely with B.C. and the State of Alaska to promptly develop plans, schedules and funding sources for mine cleanup and closure. Everyone agrees that there is a problem and that it needs to be solved, but only Canada has the means fix it. Alaskans cannot afford to lose this viable and renewable resource and Canada cannot afford to have this blemish in their history.

Thank you for your efforts and concern in this matter.

Kind Regards,



Jerry McCune  
President



Frances H. Leach  
Executive Director

CC: Lt. Governor Byron Mallot  
Senator Dan Sullivan

#### MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers • Alaska Independent Tendermen's Association • Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association • Alaska Scallop Association  
Alaska Trollers Association • Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association • Armstrong Keta • At-sea Processors Association • Bristol Bay Fishermen's Association  
Bristol Bay Reserve • Cape Barnabas, Inc. • Concerned Area "M" Fishermen • Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association • Cordova District Fishermen United  
Douglas Island Pink and Chum • Freezer Longline Coalition • Golden King Crab Coalition • Groundfish Forum • Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association  
Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association • Kodiak Seiners Association • North Pacific Fisheries Association • Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association  
Petersburg Vessel Owners Association • Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation • Purse Seine Vessel Owner Association  
Seafood Producers Cooperative • Southeast Alaska Herring Conservation Alliance • Southeast Alaska Fisherman's Alliance  
Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association • Southeast Alaska Seiners • Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association  
United Cook Inlet Drift Association • United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters • Valdez Fisheries Development Association