

*Wildlife and Hunting Heritage
Conservation Council*

July 20, 2012

The Honorable Ken Salazar, Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington D.C. 20240

**Re: WHHCC Urges Department of the Interior involvement in the EPA
Watershed Assessment of the proposed Pebble Mine**

Dear Secretary Salazar:

The members of the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council (Council) believe it is imperative that the Department of the Interior (Department) become fully engaged in the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Watershed Assessment of the potential impacts of large-scale mining projects like the Pebble Mine in Southwest Alaska as proposed by the Pebble Limited Partnership, LLC.

We understand and respect the legal review and permit process associated with such projects. Our request for your involvement is predicated on the potential scale and impact of the project at the sensitive headwaters of the Nushagak and Kivchak river drainages. In addition, the Council represents the interests of our nation's hunters and conservationists who have a vested stake in the ultimate decision regarding this project. The nexus for the involvement of the Department includes Bureau of Land Management holdings along the potentially effected rivers and tributaries of the region, as well as the potential effects on Department trust species, including ducks, geese and other migratory birds.

This project could impact wildlife conservation efforts and the quality of hunting opportunities in the region. For all these reasons we strongly urge the Department's thorough involvement with their sister-agency in the EPA Watershed Assessment of the potential impacts of large-scale mines like the proposed Pebble Mine.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



John Tomke, Chair
Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council

Cc: Secretary Tom Vilsack, USDA

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