

**To United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo:**

We, the below signed, urge you to join with tens of thousands of United States and Canadian citizens, the Alaska congressional delegation, U.S. Senators from Washington, Idaho, and Montana, governors from Alaska, Washington, and Montana, dozens of U.S. tribes and tribal organizations, Canadian First Nations, dozens of Alaska municipalities, and hundreds of U.S. businesses, and commercial and sport fishing organizations in the work to defend globally significant resources threatened by Canadian large-scale mines near the British Columbia (B.C.) headwaters of rivers flowing into the United States. For the last two decades, these diverse constituencies have submitted converging requests for the U.S. and Canadian federal governments to act with urgency under the U.S.-Canada Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 to address the risks and impacts posed to shared resources by inadequate mining regulations in B.C. and Canada.

Canada's abandoned, proposed, developing, and operating large-scale mines in U.S.-B.C. transboundary watersheds already impact or pose great risk to American interests. These mining projects continue to gain regulatory approval without significant U.S. or tribal government participation. Current B.C. permitting allows for these mines to be developed absent a stringent review process that entails: (1) the consent of indigenous communities in B.C. and the U.S., as well as private property owners; (2) an analysis of historical impacts from such mines; (3) the independent collection of 3-5 years of baseline/reference condition water quality and fish and wildlife population data; (4) an independent, comprehensive evaluation of downstream impacts; (5) a demonstration of technology to mitigate impacts that satisfies both the U.S. and Canada that shared resources won't be harmed; (6) the establishment of an independent, fully funded, and perpetual independent monitoring system; and (7) the establishment of a robust financial assurances regime that covers all mining impacts (catastrophic and cumulative).

All four U.S. states bordering B.C. share memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with the province that serve as important tools for communication and transparency. However, these MOUs are not legally binding, are unfunded, and cannot deliver the protections needed for communities downstream. A complementary federal process—and ultimately a binding international framework in these shared watersheds—is needed.

**We call on the U.S. Department of State to:**

- (1) Request that Global Affairs Canada immediately work with the Department to secure enforceable protections and financial assurances in U.S.-B.C. transboundary watersheds to ensure downstream interests are not permanently harmed by Canadian mining activity upstream. A critical first step is for the Department of State to insist with Global Affairs Canada that legally binding liability be immediately assigned to mining companies that own existing mining projects in U.S.-B.C. transboundary watersheds.**
- (2) Communicate to Global Affairs Canada that the Department wishes to have the International Joint Commission (IJC) provide valuable input on the development of a full binding international framework for U.S.-B.C. transboundary watersheds. For example, the IJC could investigate where B.C. is currently violating or at risk of violating Article IV of the Boundary Waters Treaty within these shared watersheds.**

Sincerely,