



The Honorable Mike Pompeo
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

October 2, 2018

Dear Secretary Pompeo,

We write to express our appreciation for the Administration's preliminary efforts to protect American interests in the face of potential environmental harm from large-scale hard rock mines in Canada that lack fundamental international oversight. These Canadian mining projects are located near transboundary rivers that flow from British Columbia into four U.S. states, including Alaska, and, if managed poorly, pose a threat to Southeast Alaska's flourishing commercial fishing and tourism industries.

Under the Trump Administration's leadership, the State Department, Department of the Interior, and the Environmental Protection Agency have set up an interagency work group to address Canadian mining activity in transboundary watersheds and determine which specific mechanisms are necessary to protect U.S. economic interests and resources from upstream pollution risks. Additionally, the Department of Interior has been allocated increased funding for transboundary river stream gauges, including for the Unuk River, and Congress has directed the U.S. Geological Survey to enter into a formal partnership with local tribes and other agencies to help develop a long-term water quality strategy for transboundary rivers on our borders with Canada. We applaud these first steps.

On November 13, 2017, Alaska's Congressional Delegation, along with Alaska Governor Bill Walker and Lt. Governor Byron Mallott, sent the attached letter outlining our collective concerns regarding the potential detrimental impacts of under-regulated Canadian mining activity on Alaska's world-class fisheries, tourism, and the traditional and customary ways of life in Alaska Native communities. Our letter also articulated our priorities for the needed bilateral management of the pollution risks associated with mining activity in transboundary watersheds adjacent to the United States. On February 5, 2018 Senator Sullivan and Lt. Governor Mallott traveled to Ottawa to meet with Minister of Environment and Climate Change Catherine McKenna and then-Minister of Natural Resource James Carr to further press Alaska's concerns and priorities outlined in the November letter. Additionally, the Senator and Lt. Governor asked the Ministers to use all their

existing authorities to engage with the British Columbia government for a swifter response to Alaska's concerns.

On April 26, 2018, the State Department (the Department) presented to Global Affairs Canada a preliminary description of gaps identified in the non-binding Memoranda of Understanding regarding transboundary waters between British Columbia and four U.S. states, including Alaska. We are encouraged that the Department provided this preliminary list of areas in which the U.S. and Canadian federal governments can and should engage to better safeguard U.S. interests and livelihoods. To ensure these efforts progress, it is essential that the Department continue to lead on this issue at the highest levels.

It is clear that this Administration takes the issue of transboundary watersheds very seriously. We therefore urge the Administration, through your Department, to deliver a strong message in defense of American interests at the next U.S. – Canada bilateral meetings in Ottawa in October 2018. We specifically request that the Department's representatives impress upon their Canadian counterparts the critical need for binding protections, joint water quality monitoring, and financial assurances to protect Americans downstream of large-scale Canadian mines, as outlined in our 2017 letter.

We appreciate the Administration's efforts to date. American resources, communities, and industries must not be harmed by developments upstream in British Columbia. Thank you for your considerable efforts so far, and for carrying this important message forward in your engagement with Canada. Please contact our respective offices with questions.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator



Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



Don Young
Congressman for All Alaska



Bill Walker
Governor of Alaska



Byron Mallott
Lieutenant Governor of Alaska