



Alaska Association of Student Governments

Resolution #15

Pebble Mine

Submitted by: Valdez High School Student Council

Submitted: 22 April 2025

Be it resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that,

1. **Whereas**, “Pebble Mine” is the name given to a long-proposed project of copper, gold, and molybdenum mining in Southwest Alaska;
2. **Whereas**, the proposed project would take place over the watersheds of the Nushagak and Kvichak rivers in the Bristol Bay region;¹
3. **Whereas**, the aforementioned rivers are the site of the Bristol Bay sockeye salmon runs, which harvest tens of millions of sockeye salmon each year;¹
4. **Whereas**, the establishment of Pebble Mine would foster tremendous food insecurity and plunge the Bristol Bay area region into poverty. The people of Bristol Bay have tirelessly worked to oppose the mine for decades, and are strongly against this project. 26% of Bristol Bay’s population already falls under the poverty line, and pebble mine would greatly harm the people who rely on commercial and subsistence as an income source;⁵
5. **Whereas**, the Bristol Bay salmon runs provide 14,000 fishing jobs and billions of dollars to Alaskan people and industry;¹
6. **Whereas**, the open-pit mine proposal for Pebble Mine would displace over 3,000 acres of wetlands and waters in the Bristol Bay region, creating damage to salmon species and habitats;²
7. **Whereas**, open-pit mining uses explosives to destroy rock landscapes and ore extraction processes leech pollutants such as cyanide and heavy metals in mining site areas;^{3,4}
8. **Whereas**, subsistence fishing in Alaska Native communities has a cultural history dating back over 10,000 years and is a livelihood for villages in Rural Alaska;²

9. **Whereas**, many Alaska Native/local groups and associations, including Bristol Bay Native Corporation, United Tribes of Bristol Bay, numerous individual village and tribal governments, and others have taken stances in opposition to Pebble Mine;¹
10. **Whereas**, research by the US Army Corps of Engineers prompted the EPA to deny requests by mining companies and investors to go forward with the project;³

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alaska Association of Student Governments opposes the development of the “Pebble Mine” project, and mining over the Bristol Bay watershed.

Action Statement: If passed by the General Assembly of AASG, this resolution will be sent to the Alaska House and Senate Resources Committees, the House Special Committee on Energy, the House Special Committee on Fisheries, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the United States Secretary of the Interior.

Sources:

1. Bristol Bay Native Corporation. “Pebble Mine.” *Bristol Bay Native Corporation*, 2023, www.bbnc.net/about/pebble-mine/. Accessed Oct. 2024.

2. Earthjustice. “Alaska’s Bristol Bay & the Pebble Mine.” *Earthjustice*, 17 May 2024, earthjustice.org/feature/alaska-bristol-bay-pebble-mine. Accessed Oct. 2024.

3. Greenfield, Nicole. “Crushing Alaska’s Pebble Mine.” *NRDC*, 13 Feb. 2023, www.nrdc.org/stories/crushing-alaskas-pebble-mine. Accessed Oct. 2024.

4. The University of Arizona. “Copper Mining and Processing: Processing Copper Ores.” *Superfund*, 13 July 2020, superfund.arizona.edu/resources/learning-modules-english/copper-mining-and-processing/processing-copper-ores. Accessed Oct. 2024.

5. Bristol Bay Native Association. "CEDS." *Bristol Bay Native Association*, 2025, <https://bbna.com/ceds-bristol-bay/>.

Resolution passes with unanimous consent

Passed by the Spring 2025 General Assembly of AASG hosted by Sitka High School and Mt Edgecumbe High School

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Francis Myers". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

AASG Vice President, Francis Myers

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Navarre". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

AASG Executive Director, Kathleen Navarre