

Ballot Measure 4

Bill Providing For Regulation Of Water Quality

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT

Alaskans should enthusiastically vote YES on Ballot Measure #4, "An Act protecting Alaska's clean water". Ballot Measure #4 would protect Bristol Bay's commercial, sport and subsistence fisheries from being harmed by a toxic chemical spill at the proposed Pebble Mine.

Every sulfide mine on earth has had toxic discharge. Just one toxic discharge in Bristol Bay would risk more than Alaskans will ever receive from an international mining company that takes the gold, leaves, and only pays 0.1% in taxes to Alaska.

80% of the remaining wild salmon consumed in North America now comes from Alaska, and Bristol Bay is the largest salmon fishery left on earth.

The mining industry says that Pebble would never be developed if salmon are harmed. But their own PR people acknowledge that at least 20% of the Bristol Bay drainage would, in fact, suffer environmental impact.

1. Vote YES on Ballot Measure #4 to protect Alaska's largest employer - the \$250-million-a-year commercial fishing industry. A YES vote on #4 is a vote for 8,000 Alaska jobs that are there year after year...
2. Vote YES on Ballot Measure #4 to protect Alaska's pristine image and wild salmon. One mining accident would cause catastrophic harm to Alaska's largest salmon run and world class rainbow trout fishing. A YES vote on #4 only stops toxic chemical releases that would harm our fish.
3. Vote YES on Ballot Measure #4 to protect the people of Bristol Bay who have subsisted off the fish and wildlife of this region for over 10,000 years. The people of Bristol Bay overwhelmingly support Ballot Measure #4.

4. Vote YES on Ballot Measure #4 because no sulfide mine like Pebble - on the planet earth - has ever been developed without contaminating the streams around it. And no sulfide mine has ever been proposed in a location like Bristol Bay, where it would put a large, existing resource industry at risk.

5. Vote YES on Ballot Measure #4 because wild salmon are disappearing elsewhere. If regulations are as strict as the mining industry claims, why has salmon fishing on the entire West Coast been shut down? It is because their salmon are disappearing.

6. Vote YES on Ballot Measure #4 because the international mining companies have lied to Alaskans:

- No existing mine will be shut down by Ballot Measure #4 and no mine expansion will be stopped.
- No mom-and-pop mines will be shut down by Ballot Measure #4.
- No recreational activities will be restricted by Ballot Measure #4.

Here is the exact wording in Ballot Measure #4: "...this Act **does not apply to existing large scale metallic mineral mining operations...or to future operations of existing facilities at those sites.**"

Ballot Measure #4 simply says that NEW, large metallurgical mines in Alaska cannot release toxic chemicals into salmon spawning waters that will adversely impact those salmon. It will cost the taxpayers nothing to implement Ballot Measure #4.

Vote YES on Ballot Measure #4 to protect clean water and wild Alaska salmon.

Alaskans for Clean Water
Arthur J. Hackney
Prime Sponsor of Ballot Measure #4

The statement printed on this page is the opinion of the author(s) and is presented as submitted to the Division of Elections.