

# Ballot Measure No. 4

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## An Act Providing for Protection of Bristol Bay Wild Salmon and Waters Within or Flowing Into the Existing 1972 Bristol Bay Fisheries Reserve

### STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION

The Bristol Bay Forever initiative would politicize Alaska's highly professional and successful permitting process; your "NO" vote in opposition to the initiative is important to allow the established process to move forward responsibly. The initiative is crafted to stop the Pebble mine in Southwest Alaska; it will not, but will delay the permitting process for that project and others that could be discovered in that area. It will undoubtedly be used by those intending to stop responsible development in Alaska at many other projects as the process creeps to other areas. Alaskan's have strong opinions about the Pebble project, but the ballot box is not the place to make those development decisions. A "no" vote would retain responsible development decisions to the specialists who are highly qualified to carry the process forward while a "yes" vote would create very bad public policy. Our government works on a separation of powers principle; adoption of this initiative would compromise this doctrine.

My experience, having worked with the Office of Project Management and Permitting (OPMP) within the Department of Natural Resources, indicates that this group and contributing agencies are a very credible and professional. They take their roles and the statutes that they uphold and administer very seriously. The OPMP coordinates the permitting process within the state for large mine projects. The process developed by this agency and its conduct are among the world leaders in responsible development permitting. Other agencies involved in the process include Departments of Natural Resources, Environmental Conservation, Fish & Game, Labor and Workforce Development, Transportation, Commerce, and others; various federal agencies, including EPA, and the Corps of Engineers further contribute to the process.

The initiative presents a very serious question about the separation of powers doctrine between the administrative and legislative branches of our government. Our system is set up to have checks and balances between the branches of government. This initiative attempts to give the legislative branch an unequal level of authority in decisions regarding resource development. YOUR "NO VOTE" IS URGED! To deny/restrict/overview/question by the legislature is not responsible, and is very bad policy - do you consider that the legislature is more qualified to make important resource development decisions than the highly trained and professional administrators and regulators?

Please vote no on Ballot Measure 4.

Richard A. Hughes, Managing Partner, H2T Mine Engineering Services