

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH

RESOLUTION NO. 2734-AMENDED

A Resolution of the Assembly of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Supporting Federal Involvement in the Alaska and British Columbia Transboundary Region Mining Issues

RECITALS

- A. WHEREAS**, the transboundary rivers of Northwest British Columbia and Southeast Alaska have tremendous unique economic, ecological, cultural, and recreational value to the communities of Southeast Alaska; and
- B. WHEREAS**, pristine waters and intact habitats make protecting productive and healthy wild salmon populations throughout these transboundary river systems a priority; and
- C. WHEREAS**, commercial mining in British Columbia is experiencing unprecedented expansion within the head waters of the Taku, Stikine, and Unuk rivers; and
- D. WHEREAS**, proposed mines include Tulsequah Chief in the Taku watershed; Galore Creek Mine, Red Chris Mine and Schaft Creek Mine in the Stikine watershed; Brucejack and Kerr-Sulphurets-Mitchell (KSM) projects in the headwaters of the Unuk River; and
- E. WHEREAS**, large-scale mining and energy development could have significant adverse effects on the environment and fisheries within the transboundary region; and
- F. WHEREAS**, without strict regulations, consistent inspections, and adequate funding to conduct potential cleanups in the future, an unprecedented level of water treatment and inadequate tailings containment from the proposed mining operations could pose a threat of acid mine drainage for centuries; and
- G. WHEREAS**, federal-provincial environmental assessment processes should address the cumulative impacts of industrial development and possible failures of such development; and
- H. WHEREAS**, on August 5, 2014, the tailings pond dam of the Mount Polley Mine was breached, releasing 10 million cubic meters of water and 4.5 cubic meters of slurry into Polley Lake, creating environmental concerns; and
- I. WHEREAS**, commercial fishermen, subsistence and recreational users, elected leaders, local communities, and Native tribes on both sides of the Alaska/Canada border have raised concerns about the pace and scope of the proposed industrial

development in the headwaters of the transboundary river systems and the potential for harm to water quality, fish and wildlife, and the socio-economic sustainability of the local communities within the region.

NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE ABOVE FACTS, IT IS RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH as follows:

Section 1. The Ketchikan Gateway Borough strongly urges the U.S. government to work with the government of Canada to ensure that Alaska resources are not harmed by upstream mining development in British Columbia.

Section 2. The Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly requests that the concerns of potentially affected communities, individuals, and user groups downstream from these projects be integral to transboundary watershed development decision-making and further urge greater opportunity for these voices to be heard.

Section 3. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED this 5th day of September, 2017.



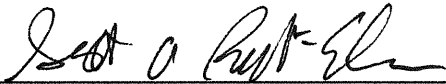
David Landis, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:



Kacie Paxton, Borough Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Scott A. Brandt-Erichsen, Borough Attorney