



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

DEC 14 2017

Byron Mallott
Lt. Governor, State of Alaska
3rd Floor, State Capitol
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811

OFFICE OF THE
DEC 27 2017
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Dear Lt. Governor Mallott:

Thank you for your November 13 letter stating your concerns regarding the potential effects on Alaska's communities and habitats from mining operations in British Columbia (B.C.). The Department of State is committed to protecting U.S. waters and the economies and livelihoods they sustain.

Department of State officials met with Lt. Governor Mallott during his September consultations with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Washington D.C. We were pleased to hear of the progress made between the State of Alaska and B.C. and took note of the continuing challenges. We understand the Lt. Governor will visit Ottawa to discuss these issues with Canadian officials at the provincial and federal levels. Embassy Ottawa and our Consulate in Vancouver stand ready to help facilitate these conversations; please keep us apprised as the plans develop.

The Department of State has also taken further steps on this important issue. In October, the Director of the Office of Canadian Affairs, Cynthia Kierscht, leading an interagency delegation to the fall semi-annual meetings of the International Joint Commission (IJC) in Ottawa, raised the issue with Sylvain Fabi, Executive Director of the Division of U.S. Transboundary Affairs of Global Affairs Canada. She highlighted U.S. concerns regarding transboundary mining impacts on the United States and secured a commitment from Global Affairs Canada to engage in a bilateral review of gaps and limitations in the cooperation frameworks between B.C. and U.S. states (Alaska, Montana, and Idaho). The Department of State will lead this review process with interagency and stakeholder input, with the goal of sharing its findings with Global Affairs Canada at the April 2018 IJC meetings. We value your assistance and input in this effort. As Canadian support would be required for a joint IJC reference, we will continue to raise this issue in upcoming bilateral meetings.

To strengthen our engagement, the Department of State established an interagency workgroup co-chaired with the EPA to coordinate our actions and communicate our concerns to the Canadian government. We will ensure you remain fully informed as this effort moves forward.

We appreciate the Alaska delegation's commitment to ensuring regular and structured transboundary cooperation on the management of our shared waters. We equally share your interest in working with Canada to identify practical solutions to these issues that are of great concern to Tribes, governments, and stakeholders on both sides of the border. We look forward to continue working with you in this common effort.

We hope this information is useful. Please do not hesitate to let us know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles S. Faulkner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charles S. Faulkner
Bureau of Legislative Affairs