

## MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** Secretary of State John Kerry

**CC:** U.S. Department of State, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Interior, U.S. Council on Environmental Quality, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Office of Science and Technology Policy, U.S. Section of the International Joint Commission, Alaska Congressional Delegation, Washington U.S. Senate Delegation, Oregon U.S. Senate Delegation, Alaska Governor Bill Walker, Alaska Lieutenant Governor Byron Mallott

**FROM:** Heather Hardcastle, Campaign Director, Salmon Beyond Borders

**DATE:** April 19, 2016 (*via email*)

**RE:** **Transboundary Rivers - *British Columbia Large-Scale Mining in the Headwaters of Southeast Alaska Rivers***

In advance of U.S./Canada bilateral meetings this week, I respectfully request that you review the following:

- More than 110 Alaskan fishing, Tribal, business, and municipal leaders have signed [a letter](#) to Secretary of State John Kerry, dated April 18, 2016. These leaders ask that Secretary Kerry invoke the Boundary Waters Treaty and request an International Joint Commission reference for the Taku, Stikine and Unuk rivers shared by the U.S. and Canada in the face of large-scale mining development in this transboundary region of Southeast Alaska and Northwest British Columbia. Additionally, over 40 municipalities, businesses, tribal entities and organizations have submitted [resolutions and letters](#) in the last few years that formally request action by the U.S. Department of State in this matter.
- A petition currently calls on Secretary Kerry to protect Southeast Alaska's \$2 billion-per-year fishing and tourism industries and way of life that are critically tied to the U.S./Canada transboundary rivers. To date, this petition has generated almost [18,000 signatures](#).
- Alaska-based professional research and consulting firm, McDowell Group, has prepared a brief [memo](#) with preliminary findings of their forthcoming report, "Southeast Alaska Transboundary Watersheds: Economic Impact Analysis." *This memo is not for distribution.*
- A number of recent media pieces and editorials speak to this issue:
  - [The New York Times](#), "A Canadian Threat to Alaskan Fishing"
  - [The Hill](#), "Avoiding a New Breach with Canada"
  - [Wall Street Journal](#), "Mining Dams Grow to Colossal Heights and So Do the Risks"

Thank you for your attention to this complex and compelling international issue. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with questions or concerns.

Heather Hardcastle, Salmon Beyond Borders Campaign Director

***SALMON BEYOND BORDERS** is a campaign driven by sport and commercial fishermen, community leaders, tourism and recreation business owners and concerned citizens, in collaboration with Tribes and First Nations, united across the Alaska/British Columbia border to sustain our transboundary rivers, jobs and way of life.*

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