



111 WEST 16TH AVENUE ▼ SUITE 400
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501
P 907.278.3602 ▼ F 907.276.3924

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 16, 2019

Media Contact:

Dan Cheyette, Vice President, Lands and Natural Resources
(907) 278-3602

BBNC Shareholders Voice Strong Opposition to Pebble Mine in Recent Survey

Anchorage, AK – Bristol Bay Native Corporation (BBNC) shareholders oppose the proposed Pebble mine project by a margin of 76% to 15% according to the results of a recently completed survey that generated 4,179 responses totaling a 46% response rate. BBNC shareholders living in the Bristol Bay region oppose the project even more than the overall shareholder base, with 83% opposed and only 11% in support.

The survey asked additional questions related to Pebble mine, and a [newsletter outlining the results](#) was mailed to all BBNC shareholders earlier this month. Key findings include:

- 85% of shareholders are “very concerned” or “fairly concerned” about the risks the proposed Pebble mine would pose to Bristol Bay with only 10% either “somewhat concerned” or “not concerned.”
- By a margin of 76% to 15%, BBNC shareholders overwhelmingly oppose the development of Pebble mine.
- Only 14% of shareholders have “complete confidence” or “quite a lot of confidence” in the economic benefits being promised by Pebble Limited Partnership (PLP), with 69% expressing “not too much confidence” or “no confidence at all.”
- Only 13% of shareholders have “complete confidence” or “quite a lot of confidence” in PLP’s ability to protect the Bristol Bay fishery, with 74% expressing “not a lot of confidence” or “no confidence at all.”
- Further breakdown of the results demonstrates that opposition to the Pebble project is significant and consistent across shareholders living in Bristol Bay. Shareholders living in all six sub-regions of Bristol Bay overwhelmingly oppose the project and are concerned about the risks it poses to Bristol Bay and its salmon runs:
 - Nushagak Sub-Region
 - Shareholders living in these villages oppose Pebble mine by a margin of 91% to 6%, and 92% are concerned about the risks the project poses to Bristol Bay and its salmon runs
 - Togiak Sub-Region
 - Shareholders living in these villages oppose Pebble mine by a margin of 86% to 7%, and 87% are concerned about the risks the project poses to Bristol Bay and its salmon runs
 - Ugashik Sub-Region

- Shareholders living in these villages oppose Pebble mine by a margin of 70% to 25%, and 84% are concerned about the risks the project poses to Bristol Bay and its salmon runs
- Chignik Sub-Region
 - Shareholders living in these villages oppose Pebble mine by a margin of 79% to 12%, and 92% are concerned about the risks the project poses to Bristol Bay and its salmon runs
- Naknek Sub-Region
 - Shareholders living in these villages oppose Pebble mine by a margin of 82% to 12%, and 87% are concerned about the risks the project poses to Bristol Bay and its salmon runs
- Iliamna Sub-Region
 - Shareholders living in these villages oppose Pebble mine by a margin of 57% to 29%, and 81% are concerned about the risks the project poses to Bristol Bay and its salmon runs

These results follow a [statewide poll conducted in April 2019](#) that showed only 35% of Alaska voters support Pebble mine, with 54% opposed to the project.

“As they have for over a decade, our shareholders have once again made it clear they are strongly opposed to Pebble mine,” said Jason Metrokin, President and CEO of BBNC. “Regardless of what part of Bristol Bay, the State of Alaska, or the Lower 48 they live, our shareholders understand Pebble mine is the wrong mine in the wrong place. BBNC continues to encourage our shareholders and all those who care about the future of Bristol Bay to make their voices heard.”

Methodology

On behalf of BBNC, Strategies 360 conducted a multi-modal survey among adult BBNC shareholders. All shareholders ages 18 and older in BBNC's database were mailed a survey packet which included a paper questionnaire and return envelope. The survey packet also included instructions for taking the survey online if the respondent preferred to fill out the questionnaire on their computer or mobile device. Each shareholder was assigned a unique survey ID and online password to track and remove duplicates from the final data and prevent fraudulent responses. The final data file was cured to remove duplicates and non-qualified responses. The survey packets were mailed to 9,186 shareholders on April 9, 2019 and responses were accepted through May 8, 2019. The survey response rate was 46% (4,179 total responses) and the margin of error is $\pm 1.1\%$.

###

About BBNC: Bristol Bay Native Corporation (BBNC) is a responsible Alaska Native corporation dedicated to the mission of “Enriching Our Native Way of Life.” Established through the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, BBNC works to protect the land in Bristol Bay, celebrate the legacy of its people, and enhance the lives of its shareholders. Learn more at www.bbnc.net.