



RESOLUTION #15

TITLE:

Earth's Bill of Rights to protect proposed Pebble Mine in the Bristol Bay watershed and surrounding lands, Alaska



WHEREAS

The 10th World Wilderness Congress (WILD10) is a global forum of wilderness supporters and practitioners that includes many protected area experts who share experiences, lessons, advances and cutting edge approaches and ideas for protecting, conserving and restoring wild nature;

WILD10 is a platform to synthesize the collective wisdom of over 1000 delegates from 52 countries including community leaders, policy and decision-makers, wilderness land owners and managers, scientists, researchers, indigenous communities, business corporations, artists, musicians, philanthropists, young people and many others;

The Bristol Bay fishery is host to the world's last great wild salmon stocks, the protection of which would contribute to biodiversity and ecosystem conservation that are critical to the survival of salmon in Katmai, further and more broadly the conveyance of real rights to nature in this region for rivers, mountains, bays, and lands would serve as a model for areas threatened throughout the world by mining and other extractive and non-sustainable activities.

By creating an Earth's Bill of Rights, the lands, waters, and minerals would be represented with an equal value as that granted by the state to companies seeking to extract resources from nature in the Bristol Bay headwaters.

Nature has inherent value and when intact, viable, and healthy systems nature directly and indirectly contributes to maintaining healthy and sustainable local communities.

Economic future values and welfare of local native communities depends on maintenance of ecological services (e.g. nutrient cycling, water flow modulation, soil conservation etc.) as well as other significant uses (recreation, tourism, and aesthetic ambience and quality).

The world views Alaska as a pristine expression of humanity's best-balanced relationship with the wild, with a strong commitment to the protection of Native communities' rights. It is now time, in the evolution of humanity, to recognize that Earth deserves the same rights that man granted himself through local, state, national, and international laws.

Earth provides all systems by which *homo sapiens* are able to survive and thrive to peak population. This perfect balance has been badly skewed in the direction of taking far more than one Earth can provide for a current population of 7,000,000,000 human beings. In order to rebalance humanity's relationship with all life on Earth, we must recognize Earth's landscapes, waterways, mountains and skies also have rights regarding the taking and conserving of well-balanced natural relationships.

Mining exploration and development within the Katmai Region is fundamentally inconsistent with the values of Earth's Bill of Rights.

THEREFORE

Teen delegates at the 10th World Wilderness Congress express our concern to the United States Government that it is in the process of carrying out an audit of the mineral resources within the Bristol Bay watershed and surrounding lands, including the proposed Pebble Mine site, with a view to considering exploitation.

RESOLVED

- Encourage the government of the United States of America to reaffirm its commitment to the Bill of Rights: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. In this case, specifically applied to a new Earth's Bill of Rights.
- To request the state and federal governments first consider Earth's Bill of Rights before granting mining concessions, so that mining can take place only if it does not violate Earth's Bill of Rights.
- Establish the right to clean air and water and healthy soil.
- Call upon the people of Earth to value Nature Needs Half as an organizing principle for deciding land, water, and air use to ensure sufficient viable habitat for the broadest range of biodiversity and nature's lasting legacy.
- Recognize that flora and fauna have as equal a right to thrive, as do human beings.
- Establish immediately a well-organized and funded network for Earth's rights internationally.
- No one shall be allowed to extract and/or diminish nature's rights by the taking and spoiling of lands, water, air, and those dependent upon it.
- Encourage the honoring of sacred native sites, cultural heritages, and traditional subsistence uses of lands, waters, and air.
- Ensure Earth's wild places, plants, animals, and structures, including native peoples, deserve the same justice we grant ourselves.
- Make no law by state and federal governments inhibiting the growth and development of wild nature, ensuring the preservation of wild Earth for future generations.
- Provide full accounting of cost, previously externalized to the commons, for extractive activities in wild nature for the time period of forever.
- Entitle Earth to a full and complete hearing by the local community, as well as all impacted individuals, for addressing damage to nature.

- Impose immediately excessive fines upon the violator In the event of an unauthorized degradation on Earth’s nature, and apply fines to the affected habitats, including all wildlife and wild people to restore to original condition what was damaged.
- Retain for nature any right not already specified by Earth’s Bill of Rights.

PROPOSER

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