

.....
(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To prohibit and restrict certain actions in the Bristol Bay watershed, and
for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. PELTOLA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To prohibit and restrict certain actions in the Bristol Bay
watershed, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Bristol Bay Protection
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The Pebble Mine project proposes to dis-
9 charge dredged or fill material into waters of the

1 United States, including wetlands, which are subject
2 to the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act.

3 (2) The discharge of dredged or fill material
4 into these waters will have unacceptable adverse ef-
5 fects on municipal water supplies, shellfish beds and
6 fishery areas, wildlife, and recreational areas.

7 (3) The Administrator of the Environmental
8 Protection Agency, pursuant to section 404(c) of the
9 Clean Water Act, has prohibited the specification of
10 the project area as a disposal site and has deter-
11 mined that the discharge of dredged or fill material
12 into these waters will have unacceptable adverse ef-
13 fects, including—

14 (A) the loss of approximately 8.5 miles
15 (13.7 km) of documented anadromous fish
16 streams;

17 (B) the loss of approximately 91 miles
18 (147 km) of additional streams that support
19 anadromous fish streams;

20 (C) the loss of approximately 2,108 acres
21 (8.5 km²) of wetlands and other waters that
22 support anadromous fish streams; and

23 (D) adverse impacts on approximately 29
24 additional miles (46.7 km) of anadromous fish

1 streams resulting from greater than 20 percent
2 changes in average monthly streamflow.

3 (4) Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed is an area
4 of unparalleled ecological value, boasting salmon di-
5 versity and productivity unrivaled anywhere in North
6 America.

7 (5) The region's salmon resources have sup-
8 ported Alaska Native cultures for thousands of years
9 and continue to support one of the last intact salm-
10 on-based cultures in the world.

11 (6) The Bristol Bay watershed's largely undis-
12 turbed aquatic habitats and productive salmon popu-
13 lations create this globally significant ecological and
14 cultural resource.

15 (7) People in the Bristol Bay region rely on
16 subsistence resources to provide high-quality foods,
17 foster a healthy lifestyle, and form the basis for so-
18 cial relations. Much of the region's population prac-
19 tices subsistence, with salmon making up a large
20 portion of their diets, and residents are particularly
21 vulnerable to potential changes in salmon abun-
22 dance.

1 **SEC. 3. CODIFICATION OF FINAL DETERMINATION RELAT-**
2 **ING TO PEBBLE DEPOSIT AREA.**

3 The final determination of the Environmental Protec-
4 tion Agency, published on February 3, 2023, and titled
5 “Final Determination To Prohibit the Specification of and
6 Restrict the Use for Specification of Certain Waters With-
7 in Defined Areas as Disposal Sites; Pebble Deposit Area,
8 Southwest Alaska” (88 Fed. Reg. 7441), shall have the
9 force and effect of law.