



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

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RDC OPPOSES EPA'S PREEMPTIVE VETO, TAKING OF STATE RESOURCES AND FUTURE OPPORTUNITY

Anchorage, AK – Today, **Leila Kimbrell**, Executive Director for the Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc. (RDC), released the following statement in response to the EPA's final determination and preemptive veto of the Pebble Project in the Bristol Bay region.

"Today's unprecedented action by the EPA is a dangerous abuse of power and federal overreach. Not only does it preemptively veto a proposed project that is still going through the administrative review and appeal process with another federal agency, but it doesn't just stop there. This decision goes far beyond the proposed project site and withdraws more than 300 square miles of *state-owned* land from any future development. These were lands selected by the state of Alaska from the federal government at statehood specifically for their mineral-rich deposits. This violates the federal government's agreement with Alaska and is also an end-run around the federal Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act's (ANILCA) "no more" clause adopted in 1980. RDC has long advocated for stable, science-backed environmental regulatory permitting processes for any development project in Alaska. If the EPA can now be used to avoid these regulatory processes and simply declare any area of state or private land off-limits to development at the wave of a wand, we should all be scared. Today's decision sets no limit on the federal government stopping future development of our domestic resources in Alaska, or elsewhere, and represents an irresponsible and unbalanced approach to developing our resources in a state with some of the highest environmental standards in the world."

More information about the EPA's announcement can be found here: <https://www.epa.gov/bristolbay>

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RDC was established in 1975 as a non-profit, statewide trade association comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's fishing, forestry, mining, oil and gas, and tourism industries. RDC's membership includes Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor, individual members, associations, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

More information about RDC can be found here: www.akrdc.org