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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Renewable Resources Coalition, Inc.  
Anchorage, Alaska

FROM: William M. Cromer  
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SUBJECT: A Summary of Statewide Polling Results on Pebble Mine

DATE: October 24, 2006

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We conducted a statewide poll among the Alaskan electorate on the nights of September 25 through September 27, 2006. The sample size was 607 voters proportionate to the traditional general election turnout among six key regions in the state (Southeast, Peninsulas [Prince William and Kenai], Anchorage, the Valley, Fairbanks and Rural Alaska). Interviewing was conducted by telephone and the sample methodology was random digit dialing. The sampling error for a study this size is  $\pm 4$  percent at 95 percent confidence.

Following are key arguments the two sides have made for and against Pebble Mine:

- *It's Supporters say it is a world-class mining prospect with estimates of \$10 billion in gold and \$15 billion in copper. Supporters say it will create 2,000 jobs to build and 1,000 jobs to operate with a lifespan from 40 to 60 years. It will reinvigorate the mining industry in Alaska, create more jobs and more money for the State.*
- *It's Opponents say it will be a world-class environmental disaster. It'll put at risk the spawning grounds and runs for the largest producer area of red salmon in the world, an area also known for trophy rainbow trout. This is an area where high-end anglers sport fish and locals rely on*

*rivers and waterways for subsistence fishing. The Opponents say the area is an Alaskan resource already producing for the state and the resource could be destroyed by the mine.*

After hearing these two sides, 53 percent of the voters throughout all of Alaska say they are Opposed to the opening of Pebble Mine and about half that amount, 28 percent, are in favor of the opening of Pebble Mine. Just shy of one-fifth (19%) are Undecided.

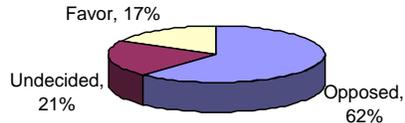
There is a slight difference between Men and Women. While half of all Men in the state are opposed to it, four-out-of-every-seven Women (57%) are opposed to Pebble Mine's opening.

And even though there are differences of opinion about opening Pebble Mine by political party, definitive majorities of Democrats and Republicans, alike oppose opening Pebble Mine. Among Independents, a plurality of 49 percent opposes Pebble Mine's opening.

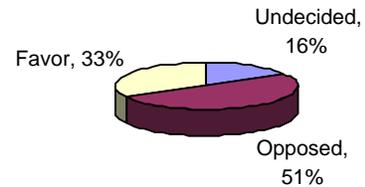
### ***POSITION ON PEBBLE MINE BY POLITICAL PARTY***

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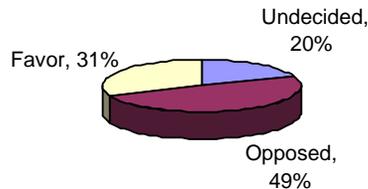
#### **Democrats**



#### **Republicans**



#### **Independents**



There are numerous reasons behind these sets of opinions.

- Half of all voters feel that Pebble Mine is a threat to Alaska's quality of life. In Anchorage, 56 percent feel that way, as do 62 percent in Southeast.

- Fifty-six percent, almost three-fifths, feel that Pebble Mine poses an environmental threat to the water quality in Bristol Bay. So do 63 percent of the State's Native Men and 59 percent of all the Rural Natives.
- Over three-fifths (61%) agree, "The damage from Pebble Mine will forever threaten the subsistence way of life in the mine area." Even 56 percent of the state's Republicans and 55 percent of its Independents agree with this sentiment.
- Over three-fifths (62%) also agree, "Bristol Bay's renewable resources are just too valuable to put at risk by opening this mine." Among Rural Natives, 66 percent agree and among Urban Natives, 58 percent agree.
- Just shy of seven-out-of-every-ten voters (68%) agree, "Open pit mines and wild salmon just don't mix." Among Union Households, 74 percent agree with this statement and so do 72 percent of the state's Public Employees.

In addition to these attitudes, the voters are fearful of the long term impacts of Pebble Mine and they are upset at the lack of complete transparency on the part of Northern Dynasty.

- Two-thirds (66%) say the spread of acid runoff – produced by the rain or snow touching the sulfur-laden dust at the mine site – concerns them and they fear that sulfuric acid runoff could reach areas never anticipated. For that reason they are for stopping Pebble Mine.
- Lastly, 64 percent are in favor of halting Pebble Mine because Northern Dynasty promised the state they wouldn't touch Upper Talarik Creek which is the spawning ground for Bristol Bay salmon and trout. But when they applied for the rights to use the water in the Upper Talarik Creek and in the North and South forks of Kuktuli River, paying only \$900 dollars to do what they said they would not, almost two-thirds of the voters say that Pebble Mine should be stopped.

This fact upset so many voters in the Railbelt to the degree that 66 percent say Pebble Mine should not be permitted to open. These are important reasons why, by a ratio of almost 2:1 more voters are opposed to Pebble Mine than are in favor of it.