

From: Alaska Governor Bill Walker (GOV sponsored) [governor@alaska.gov]
Sent: Thursday, July 02, 2015 4:37 PM
To: Mim McConnell
Subject: Transboundary Waters CRM:0009278

Dear Mim,

Thank you for providing feedback on the State of Alaska's role in transboundary water quality discussions with British Columbia. We do recognize the importance of protecting our water quality and fisheries integrity.

I have delegated Lt. Governor Byron Mallott to take the lead in working with State agencies to address this issue. Byron and I agree that these rivers are key to Southeast Alaska's way of life including Native cultures, community economies, recreation, and subsistence, and, of course, our profitable seafood and tourism industries that employ thousands of people. When it comes to Canadian mining activity in the watersheds of rivers that flow from British Columbia into Alaska, our administration will act forthrightly to protect Alaska waters, our residents, and their livelihoods.

Our office has and will continue to address the needs of all Alaskans as we assert appropriate influence through our role in the mining process in British Columbia. Our Internal Transboundary Waters Working Group, chaired by the Lt. Governor and including the commissioners of the three resource departments, continues to meet to discuss an agreement with British Columbia that protects the responsible self-interest of Alaska.

We look forward to having a dialogue with Alaska's Tribes and stakeholders to hear your thoughts on the draft agreement and its implementation. Before long, you will receive a second email from a member of our administration with details on how you might participate in the process.

Our intent, through the agreement with British Columbia and other means within the State's purview, is to protect Alaska's waters and fisheries now and for future generations. The Internal Transboundary Waters Working Group's focus is on water quality and habitat integrity, as well as mining. We look forward to your input regarding concerns you would suggest the group consider. Our waters are the lifeblood of Alaska, and we will do all within our capabilities to ensure their quality is maintained.

If you have any questions or comments, please direct them to Lt. Governor Mallott's Special Assistant, Barbara Blake, at barbara.blake@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,

Bill Walker
Governor

State of Alaska
State Capitol, Third Floor
www.gov.alaska.gov