Sponsors: McConnell/Hunter

POSSIBLE MOTION

I MOVE to approve Mayor McConnell signing a letter to Lt. Governor Byron Mallott encouraging the International Joint Commission to fund and support comprehensive baseline water quality testing on transboundary rivers.



City and Borough of Sitka

100 Lincoln Street Sitka, Alaska 99835

Coast Guard City, USA

November 2, 2015

Lt. Governor Byron Mallott P.O. Box 110001 Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Lt. Governor Mallott,

On October 14, 2014, the City and Borough of Sitka (CBS) passed a resolution asking the International Joint Commission (IJC) to become involved in the issue of extensive mining activity in the Alaska-British Columbia Transboundary Region. In this effort, the CBS joined Petersburg Borough, City and Borough of Wrangell, City and Borough of Juneau, Southeast Conference, the Alaska Municipal League, and multiple other groups in asking the IJC to get involved in this critical issue.

As you know, the transboundary rivers are essential to our coastal economies. The mining activities in these watersheds require close environmental observation. Recent tailing dam failures emphasize the need for ongoing monitoring and regulation.

The CBS requests the State of Alaska to encourage the IJC to fund and support comprehensive baseline water quality testing on our transboundary rivers. This data will allow us to objectively monitor the water quality of these critically essential water systems.

We appreciate your support and leadership.

Sincerely,

Mim McConnell Mayor

Enclosure: City and Borough of Sitka Resolution 2014-16

cc: Governor William Walker