By email

Dear Kim,

As you know, Alaska’s Pebble Project will soon enter a new phase of development. Over the course of 2017, we expect to secure a new funding partner for the project, and to initiate federal and state permitting under the National Environmental Policy Act.

Perhaps more importantly, the Pebble Partnership’s goal is to ensure that any project it advances into permitting is substantially more responsive to stakeholder priorities and concerns than design concepts proposed in the past. While a great deal of time, money and effort was expended in recent years pursuing a responsible mine plan for Pebble, we now intend to pursue a project that is both significantly smaller and incorporates more robust environmental protections and safeguards.

We will also be advancing a series of initiatives this year to ensure that the people and communities of Bristol Bay benefit directly from Pebble’s development. This includes initiatives related to local ownership, partnerships with Alaska Native corporations and commercial fishery interests, as well as shared infrastructure.

It’s important to note that the major national and international mining companies currently contemplating a substantial investment in our project are fully briefed on the Pebble Partnership’s plan to propose a smaller and more beneficial project, and support the progressive new approach to development we are taking.

As we discussed when we met last week, I’m writing today to formally extend an invitation for you to participate on a special Advisory Panel of well-known and well-respected Alaskans and national figures with a professional background and informed interest in natural resource development, environmental conservation and socioeconomic development in Alaska Native communities. I have no doubt that you would make a tremendous contribution to the Advisory Panel’s work, and our efforts to design a project that safely co-exists with clean water, healthy fisheries and traditional ways of life in southwest Alaska, while generating substantial long-term benefits for the people of the region and the state.

The Terms of Reference for the Pebble Advisory Committee will be simple. Participants will have the latitude to request information about and provide feedback on any dimension of the Pebble Project they choose – including engineering design, environmental safeguards and technology, alternatives assessment, environmental impacts, project mitigation, socioeconomic impacts, and programs to enhance public benefits. With the exception of information that is deemed proprietary or whose release is restricted by securities or other law, the Pebble Partnership will be as open and transparent with Advisory Panel members as possible.

Participants in the Advisory Panel process will not be bound by confidentiality agreement or any other limitation on their rights of public expression, including the right to publicly oppose development of the Pebble Project. For its part, the Pebble Partnership will undertake to adopt as much input and guidance from panel participants as it deems practicable and appropriate, without being bound to do so. The work of the Advisory Panel will be shared with project stakeholders and the people of Alaska.
Our goal is simple: to design the best possible mine development project, one that is both financially feasible and fully protects the important environmental values of Bristol Bay and southwest Alaska.

To date, the Pebble Partnership has received commitments from four prominent individuals to participate as founding members of the Advisory Panel, with several other invitations remaining outstanding. Committed participants include:

- former President of the League of Conservation Voters, founding Director of the Western Governors Association, President of the National Park Foundation and President & CEO of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Jim Maddy
- Alaska Native leader and University of Alaska professor, Willie Hensley; and
- former Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the US Army Corps of Engineers, Terence ‘Rock’ Salt;

As we discussed when we met last week, I am asking you to consider joining this group of four initial Advisory Panel participants. Once an initial group of panelists is finalized, we will reach out to another 8-10 prospective participants from various other constituencies – including local communities, Native Alaskans, subsistence, sport and commercial fishery representatives, elected officials, conservationists, academics, mining experts, among others.

We would be pleased to involve you in the process of helping identify other panelists.

Advisory Panel participants will be offered an annual honorarium in the amount of $30,000, which they may or may not accept, in addition to travel and other expenses. They will be expected to attend 2 – 3 meetings each year in Alaska, in addition to monthly tele-conferences. Participants may be asked to review reports or other materials from time to time, and may request that the Pebble Partnership provide independent technical and other expertise as required.

I hope you will give our request careful consideration.

The Pebble Partnership is working in good faith to design and permit a project at Pebble that will create substantial benefits for multiple generations of Alaskans, while helping to address the region’s and state’s very serious economic challenges. I have no doubt that you can contribute meaningfully to that mission.

Sincerely,

John Shively
Chairman, Pebble Mines Corp.