

CHUITNA CITIZENS ~~COAL~~ ITION

January 13, 2009

Richard D. Bass
6905 Vassar
Dallas, TX 75205

RE: The Chuitna Coal Strip Mine Project

Dear Mr. Bass:

The Chuitna Citizens NO-COALition is a community organization comprised of residents and property owners from Beluga and Tyonek, the two communities that will be directly impacted by the proposed Chuitna Coal Strip Mine.

Public records show that PacRim Coal LLC, which is the proponent of this coal mine proposal, is jointly owned by you and Herbert Hunt.

We have chosen to live, work and retire in these communities to enjoy the splendor of the Alaskan way of life, where we can hunt and fish among the amazing resources of the Chuitna River watershed. Like you, we revel in the majestic beauty around us.

The proposed Chuitna coal strip mine will destroy thousands of acres of important fish and game habitat that we rely on for recreation, as well as for sport, commercial and subsistence hunting and fishing. If developed as currently proposed, this coal strip mine would be the first project in Alaska's history to directly mine through 11 miles of a salmon spawning and rearing stream. Furthermore, the proposed facility would dump on average 7 million gallons a day of polluted mine waste and runoff into the Chuitna River watershed and Upper Cook Inlet. Finally, the proposed mine infrastructure will bring industrialization to our quiet communities, the coal transport system will bring coal dust into our homes, and the offshore trestle will destroy existing commercial set net fishing sites that have been continually fished for generations.

As you probably know, coal produces the most greenhouse gases of any traditional fuel source – roughly twice the amount from natural gas, for example. As Alaska continues to experience the disproportionate effects of rapid climate change, we know increased coal development and use will only aggravate an already serious problem.

As the owner of a major ski resort and an avid mountain climber, we know you're well aware of the threats posed by a business-as-usual approach to climate change. We have been impressed with the various accolades you have received for your conservation ethic over the years, and we're confident you understand our concerns about large scale coal strip mining. We believe that if this mine proposal was situated in Little Cottonwood Canyon, you would not be supporting its

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development. Therefore, we ask that you withdraw your involvement from, and financial support for, this mine proposal that is in 'our backyard'.

We would be glad to meet with you to discuss further our concerns about the mine proposal. Please know we believe strongly in economic development, and we would like to see more responsible projects unfold around us. For example, the Beluga/Tyonek areas possess world-class renewable energy resources, and we believe renewable energy development can combat climate change while providing sustainable energy and jobs for years to come.

We understand you have investments in this region. However, we believe the risks of development as currently proposed are too high. Accordingly, we request that you cease all efforts to develop the Chuitna coal strip mine until we can meet in-person and until enforceable conditions are in place to ensure our fishing and hunting resources will not be adversely impacted.

Thank you for your attention to this vital matter and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Judy Heilman, President
Chuitna Citizens NO-COALition

Terry Jorgensen, Vice President
Chuitna Citizens NO-COALition