

Introduced by: Dunne  
Date: 06/18/19  
Action: Failed to Adopt  
Vote: 3 Yes, 6 No, 0 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH  
RESOLUTION 2019-038**

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO CONSIDER  
THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS TO THE BEAR VIEWING INDUSTRY IN THE PEBBLE  
MINE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

- WHEREAS,** Cook Inlet boasts the highest concentration of brown bears in the world, and decision makers have recognized this unique natural asset through the formation of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, McNeil River State Game Sanctuary and Katmai National Park and Preserve, among others; and
- WHEREAS,** bear-viewing is a popular and growing pursuit for tourists and Alaskans alike; and
- WHEREAS,** the best access to these viewing areas is from communities in the Kenai Peninsula Borough; and
- WHEREAS,** bear-viewing businesses play a highly significant role in the economy of the Kenai Peninsula Borough; and
- WHEREAS,** local businesses in the Kenai Peninsula Borough have been providing bear viewing services for over 40 years; and
- WHEREAS,** a recent economic study by the University of Alaska Fairbanks (“UAF”) School of Management gathered data from bear-viewing related businesses across Southcentral Alaska and reviewed existing pertinent research and found bear-viewing supports nearly 500 jobs annually, including jobs with air and water taxis, guiding services, lodges, food services and other small businesses; and
- WHEREAS,** the UAF study found bear-viewing brings in more than \$34 million in direct sales, and that three-quarters of the revenues stay within Alaska; and
- WHEREAS,** bear viewing service providers paid \$10 million in direct wages and benefits; and
- WHEREAS,** bear-viewing is a sustainable resource use which can produce economic benefits for many years if it is managed correctly; and
- WHEREAS,** the proposed Pebble mine’s transportation corridor and export terminal in Kamishak Bay would bisect important brown bear habitat; and

**WHEREAS,** the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Pebble Mine does not address any potential impacts to the Kenai Peninsula Borough's bear-viewing economy;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:**

**SECTION 1.** That the Kenai Peninsula Borough hereby requests the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers amend the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Pebble Mine to include an economic analysis of potential impacts to bear-viewing businesses.

**SECTION 2.** That this resolution shall become effective immediately upon its enactment.

**ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 18TH DAY OF JUNE, 2019.**

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Wayne H. Ogle, Assembly President

ATTEST:

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Johni Blankenship, MMC, Borough Clerk

Yes: Cooper, Dunne, Smalley  
No: Bagley, Blakeley, Carpenter, Fischer, Hibbert, Ogle  
Absent: None