

Kenai Peninsula Borough
Assembly

MEMORANDUM

TO: Wayne Ogle, Assembly President
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

FROM: Willy Dunne, Assembly Member (*W*) for *W. D.*

DATE: June 6, 2019

RE: Resolution 2019-038, 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 (Dunne)

The bear viewing industry has been an important and growing sector of the Kenai Peninsula Borough economy for over 40 years. In recent years, Alaska bear viewing has provided an estimated 490 local jobs and \$34 million dollars in direct sales, the majority of which are located in the borough communities of Homer, Kenai and Soldotna.

The Pebble transportation corridor and export facility proposed to be sited in lower Cook Inlet would be located in the heart of large concentrations of brown bears, an area which bear viewing businesses depend upon for their livelihood. The Army Corps of Engineers ("ACE") Draft Environmental Impact Statement does not address the potential economic impacts to these existing local jobs and economy.

This resolution would request the ACE to correct this deficiency by providing an analysis of the potential impacts to the bear viewing industry.

Your support is appreciated.