



Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

For the record, my name is Kati Capozzi, and I serve as the president and CEO of the Alaska Chamber.

The Alaska Chamber is a non-profit founded in 1953 with a mission to promote a positive business environment in Alaska. We represent hundreds of businesses, manufacturers, and local chambers of commerce across the state. Our member companies employ more than 100,000 hard-working Alaskans.

I am here to testify in support of the DEIS. While The Alaska Chamber has not taken a formal position on the Pebble project, we do support a fair and informed public process. This is true regardless of industry: we support consistent and predictable permitting for the tourism industry, the oil and gas industry, the health care industry, the telecommunications industry, and the fishing industry, to name just a few. This belief is grounded in the reality that Alaska must sustain and grow its economy by attracting additional investment, whether that investment is for fiber optic cable, wind turbines, agriculture, or mines. Alaska's economy cannot grow when arbitrary rules are applied to high-profile industries or projects purely out of public pressure.

The Alaska Chamber also supports Alaska's robust environmental regulatory regime and permitting process. Our state can be proud of holding developers to some of the most stringent environmental protections in the country, if not the world. Those same protections should ensure that every proposal, every potential project across Alaska, should have the rules and the process applied consistently and fairly, without prejudice, and without favoritism. These rules serve as cornerstones for our country, and our state.

In conclusion, thank you hearing testimony tonight, and the Alaska Chamber restates our support for the DEIS in the name of due process.