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February 13, 2022

Mr. Gregory Mazer
Fairbanks Field Office
Regulatory Division (1145)
CEPOA-RD
PO Box 35066
Fort Wainwright, AK 99703
Sent via email to: regpagemaster@usace.army.mil

Re: Public Notice of Peak Gold's (Manh Choh) 404 Wetlands Permit Application POA 2013-00286

Dear Mr. Mazer:

The Alaska Miners Association (AMA) writes to express support for Peak Gold's 404 Wetlands Permit Application POA 2013-00286 for the Manh Choh Project.

AMA is a professional membership trade organization established in 1939 to represent the mining industry in Alaska. We are composed of more than 1,400 members that come from eight statewide branches: Anchorage, Denali, Fairbanks, Haines, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan/Prince of Wales, and Nome. Our members include individual prospectors, geologists, engineers, suction dredge miners, small family mines, junior mining companies, and major mining companies, Alaska Native Corporations, and the contracting sector that supports Alaska's mining industry.

The plan the Manh Choh Project officials have developed is environmentally responsible and innovative. It minimizes the project's footprint overall by proposing to haul ore to the existing Fort Knox mine for processing. Utilizing existing infrastructure avoids the need for additional milling and tailings storage facilities to be constructed. The Fort Knox mine has operated for 27 years in compliance with Alaska's rigorous regulatory requirements, and in fact, has earned awards for above and beyond reclamation and restoration performed.

Kinross Alaska is also well known for its safety accomplishments at its operation. The company's "See It, Own It, Solve It" program has created a culture of safety within its workforce resulting in significant safety milestones. In fact, Fort Knox has received the Sentinels of Safety Award from the U.S. National Mining Association as the safest large metal mine in the United States.

In addition to boasting impressive safety and environmental records, Kinross Alaska's operation has employed hundreds of Interior Alaskans that live, work, and play in the Fairbanks community, and generated millions in revenue to the Fairbanks North-Star Borough and State of Alaska. Now, the Peak Gold team is proposing to expand these economic benefits through development of the Manh Choh Project.



This project will create millions of dollars of new economic activity in an area with an extremely limited economy and few jobs. It will create hundreds of jobs during its construction phase, and an estimated 400–600 new jobs during operation. Mining jobs in Alaska carry an average annual wage of \$130,000 – more than twice the state average annual wage. The project officials have committed to training and hiring as many local community residents as possible and will incentivize contractors to do so as well. There are also significant benefits to the local businesses in Tok, Delta Junction, Fairbanks, and other communities that will supply goods and services to the project.

The Manh Choh project could be a much-needed economic boost for this area of Alaska, and in addition to the direct economic benefits, will also bring lasting infrastructure improvements to the region's highways and bridges, cellular tower, and the Tetlin village lands, all without any negative impact to the environment.

This project is clearly in the best interest of Alaskans and exactly what we need to grow the mining industry, build new infrastructure for all, and preserve the existing economic benefits from Fort Knox. We encourage you to grant the permit and get this project working for our state.

Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact me with questions.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Skibinski".

Deantha Skibinski
Executive Director