

International Longshore and Warehouse Union  
Thirty-fifth International Convention  
San Diego, California  
June 4 – 8, 2012

M/S/C  
6/6/12 AM

Resolution # R-3

OPPOSE PEBBLE PARTNERSHIP'S OPEN PIT MINING IN BRISTOL BAY ALASKA

WHEREAS: Rio Tinto is the largest mining company in the world and has a track record of dubious business practices and unfulfilled promises of economic windfall for all stakeholders within the communities of its operations. Rio Tinto is a multi-national corporation that operates by its own rules and has gone to great lengths to convince the prospective region that open pit mining will enhance and create economic opportunity for all residents of the area; and

WHEREAS: Pebble Partnership is the company behind a proposed mining operation located in Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed district within the raw wilderness area of the 1.6 million acre Wood-Tikchik State Park which is one of the largest state parks in the U.S. Pebble Partnership was formed by Northern Dynasty of British Columbia and an American company Anglo-American PLC based in England. Rio Tinto has substantial shares in Northern Dynasty as well as an influential representative on the Northern Dynasty Executive Board. Extensive resources have been spent on lobbying effort to convince Alaskans of the benefits and opportunities the proposed mining would bring to the region; and

WHEREAS: Open pit mining has been proven to be an environmental disaster, especially in an area that is considered a sensitive ecosystem for numerous wildlife, rare foliage, and especially the primary habitat of the largest Sockeye salmon run in the world. The populations in the area rely heavily on wild resources for subsistence purposes. Moose, caribou and all five species of salmon are harvested by the residents of this region. Wild resources not only supply many communities with the majority of their foodstuffs but they also play an important part in the region's cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS: Rio Tinto and Anglo-American are not considered desirable corporate partners. A report commissioned by opponents of Pebble, criticizes Anglo-American for community, worker safety, public health and environmental

problems at their mining operations in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Ireland and the U.S. Rio Tinto has a similar track record. Past practice by both these companies is proof that they are only interested in profits which are estimated to be in the neighborhood of 40 billion dollars for their shareholders and doing whatever it takes to get the mine operational. Without a doubt the EPA has stated that mining has contaminated portions of the headwaters of over 40 percent of watersheds in the western continental U.S. and reclamation of 500,000 abandoned mines in 32 states could cost tens of billions of dollars;  
THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: That the International Longshore and Warehouse Union denounce the effort of Northern Dynasty, Anglo-American and Rio Tinto's Pebble Partnership from allowing an open mining operation in the Bristol Bay, Alaska watershed area; and BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED: That the ILWU lobby against Pebble Partnership mine at the federal and state level and maintain political pressure on disallowing this proposed Pebble Mining operation.