



February 18, 2022

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Hans Kaiser, Moore Information Group
RE: Alaska Voter Survey Findings – Pebble Mine

This memo contains results from a poll conducted among 500 voters statewide in Alaska.

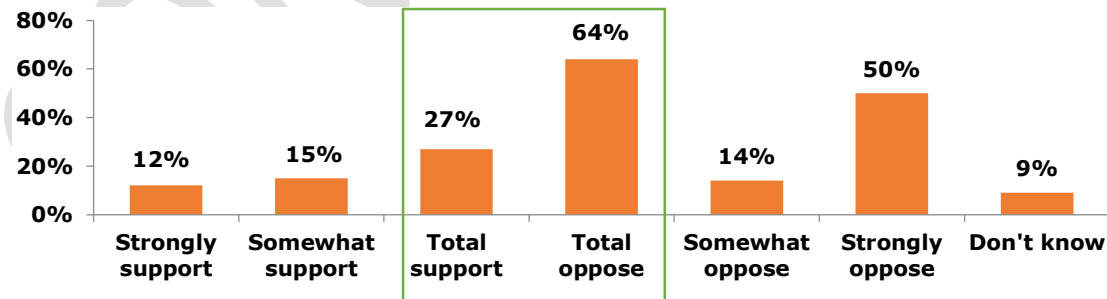
Overview

We find in the data very strong and widespread opposition to the Pebble mine throughout the state and among most all demographic groups. We also find voters wanting to put this issue behind them and are quite supportive of doing “whatever it takes” to stop the mine and end the problem once and for all. However, this does mean to imply that there is some new-found opposition to resource development in the state, but rather simply strong opposition to this particular project, and we find that voters see it as “perfectly reasonable” to separate those two positions.

Pebble Mine: Alaskans Not Interested

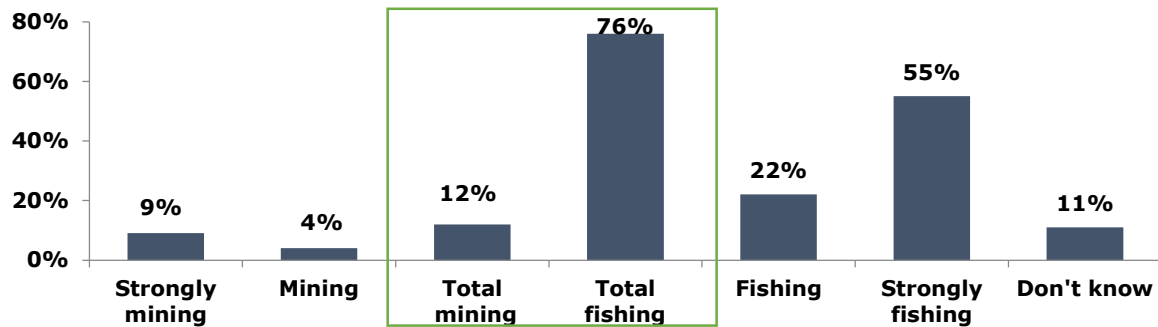
A very large majority of Alaskan voters are opposed to building the Pebble Mine, and they feel very strongly about it. Results of our recent survey in Alaska show 64% of them oppose the mine, with 50% saying they “strongly” oppose the mine. In contrast only 27% of Alaskan voters support the mine and just 12% support it “strongly.” This kind of intensity is uncommon and indicates extremely strong opposition to the mine. Furthermore, based on cases where we do see strong intensity like this, movement away from the position is very unlikely. Getting behind the Pebble Mine is not a popular opinion in the state today and that is not likely to change.

“As you may know, some companies would like to build a mine near Bristol Bay called the Pebble Mine. Based on what you know or have heard, do support or oppose this new mine?”



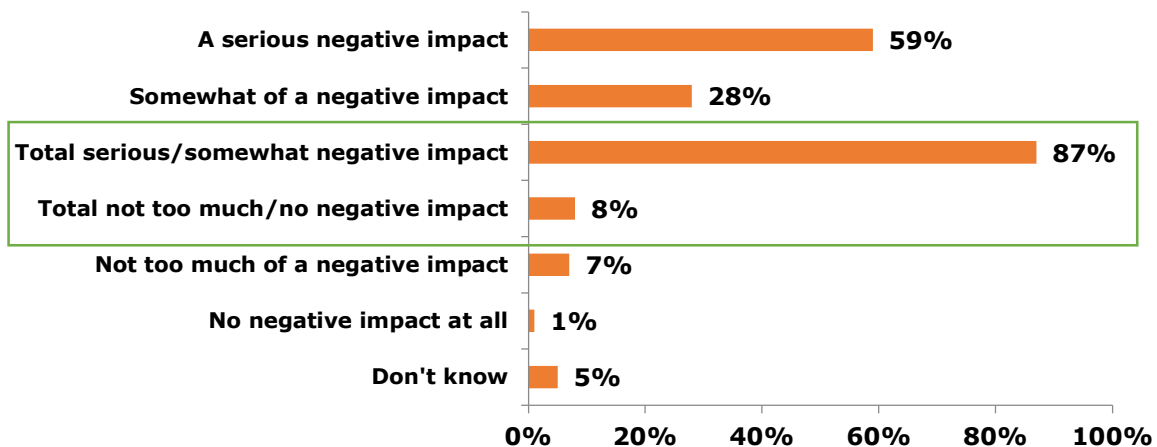
Two questions in this survey appear to show where Alaskans' concerns lay and it appears more with fish than with mining. When asked which was more important to Alaska's economy, fishing or mining, we find more than three-quarters of Alaskans (76%) saying "fishing" and just 12% saying "mining."

"Mining and fishing are both important to Alaska's economy, but if you had to choose, which is more important to you, personally?"



Even more telling is the fact that fully 87% of Alaskan voters think that an accident that harmed wild salmon fisheries would have a negative impact on the state's economy with 59% saying it would have a seriously negative impact on the economy.

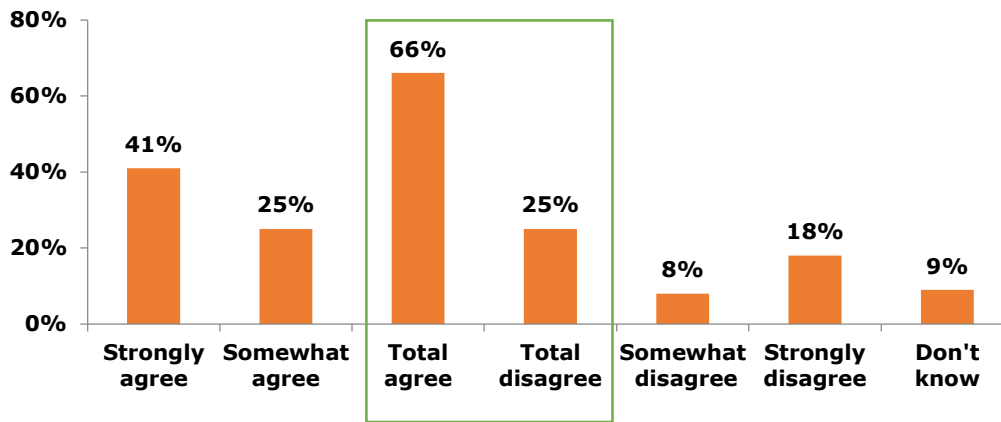
"If there were an incident or accident that harmed Alaska's wild salmon fisheries, what type of impact do you think that would have on Alaska's economy?"



Stopping the Mine: Who Should Help?

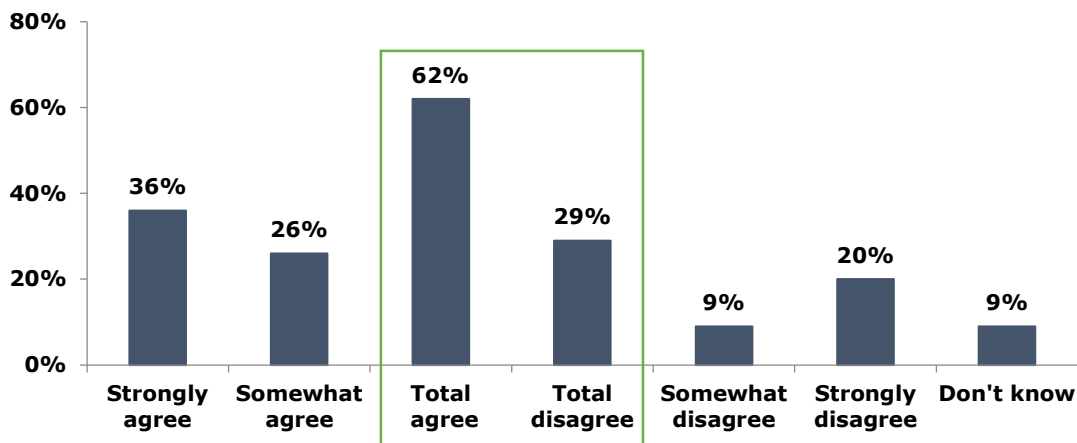
It's no secret that Alaskans are wary of federal intervention in the state and in general take a dim view of government overreach. On this subject, however, voters in Alaska appear more than willing to consider any solution, including using the EPA's Clean Water Act or an Act of Congress, to end the threat to Alaska from the Pebble Mine. When asked if they agree with either one of those approaches two-thirds of voters in Alaska (66%) said yes, "whatever it takes to get it done." Only 25% disagreed with this approach.

"Agree or Disagree: For nearly two decades the threat of the Pebble Mine has hung over the head of the Bristol Bay region. It's time to end the threat and solve the problem once and for all, whether it's through the EPA's Clean Water Act authority or an Act of Congress. Whatever it takes to get it done."



And it isn't a question of either/or with Alaskans. Fully 62% of them would support a two-track approach to protecting Bristol Bay involving both the EPA *and* an Act of Congress.

"Agree or Disagree: To stop Pebble Mine and permanently protect Bristol Bay we need a comprehensive two-track approach that uses the Clean Water Act and to stop the Pebble Mine along with an Act of Congress to permanently protect the entire watershed and create a sustainable economic future for the region."



Voters in Alaska see protecting the watershed as critical in creating a sustainable economic future for the state. They have lived with the threat of Pebble Mine hanging over Bristol Bay (and their heads) for almost two decades and today a very large majority of them simply want the problem solved, however it gets done.

Support for Resource Development *and* Opposition to Pebble Can Coexist:

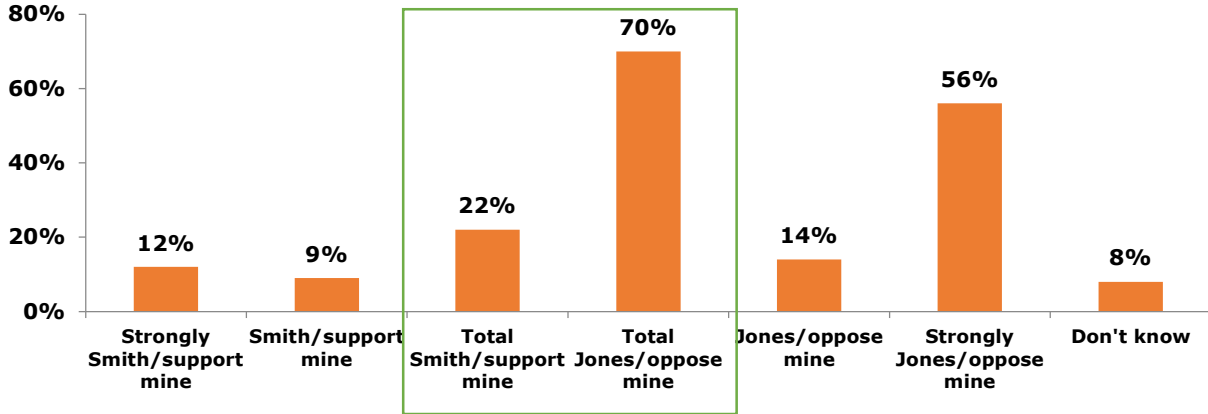
Finally, in a Smith/Jones question we asked about resource development in the state and we found a very large majority (70%) of voters in Alaska believing it is "perfectly reasonable" for supporters of resource development in the state to also oppose the Pebble mine because of the threats it presents. Furthermore, when we look at vote behavior, large majorities of self-described Republicans (55%), Independents (66%) and Democrats (90%) share this sentiment. We also find that sentiment shared by large majorities of voters of all ages and among both men and women as well as in every region of the state.

"Here's what two people, let's call them Smith and Jones, are saying about the proposed Pebble Mine we've been talking about.

Smith says anyone who supports resource development in Alaska should support the Pebble Mine and those who oppose are the same people who are trying to stop development in other parts of Alaska.

Jones says it is perfectly reasonable for someone to support resource development in Alaska but still oppose the Pebble Mine because some development projects are too risky and threaten our salmon fisheries, native communities and other outdoor activities.

Which view comes closest to your own?" (Q12)



Methodology

The survey was conducted by Moore Information Group, December 11-15, 2021, among a representative sample of 500 voters statewide in Alaska. Live phone interviews were conducted and included both land line and cell phone interviews. The margin of error associated with this sample is +/-4% at the 95% confidence level.