



Alaska State Legislature

Interior Delegation

Representatives: Jim Holm, Chair, John Coghill, Hugh "Bud" Fate, Nick Stepovich, David Guttenberg
Senators: Gene Therriault, Gary Wilken, Ralph Seekins

Northern Alaska Environmental Center
830 College Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

April 21, 2004

To the Northern Alaska Environmental Center:

Alaskans have a long and proud tradition of pulling together when the need arises. Today we face such a situation at the Pogo Mine.

For the past four years, Teck-Pogo Inc., local residents, and members of the Northern Alaska Environmental Center have been working together to find an environmentally responsible way to construct and operate a hard rock mining operation northeast of Delta Junction. Many thousands of hours and millions of dollars have been invested in this process. After intensive review, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation determined that the project could be safely built under the terms and conditions of the permits issued by those agencies.

Seventy-two hours prior to those permits going into effect, the Northern Alaska Environmental Center appealed the permit. This action created an uncertain investment climate in which Teck-Pogo Inc. cannot proceed. Consequently, all activity has ceased and 300 Alaska jobs are in jeopardy.

Everyone who worked so hard to make this project environmentally safe and economic, everyone working at the site to build a mine we could be proud of, and everyone in the Delta area and the rest of the State who would benefit from this project deserve better.

Any uncertainty that still exists with this project can and should be addressed right here in Alaska.

In the interest of everyone involved, we the undersigned ask the Northern Alaska Environmental Center to immediately withdraw their appeal and commit to resuming work in a productive and meaningful manner with the company and local residents.

Please advise Representative Nick Stepovich by close of business Monday as to the Northern Alaska Environmental Center's intent to withdraw the Pogo Mine permit appeal.

Sincerely,

Representative Nick Stepovich

Senator Gene Therriault

Representative John Coghill

Senator Gary Wilken

Representative Hugh “Bud” Fate

Senator Ralph Seekins

Representative Jim Holm

Senator Georgianna Lincoln

Representative John Harris

Representative Carl Morgan

Cc:
Northern Alaska Environmental Center Board Members