

**James Buchal**

Attached is an Adobe Acrobat document containing 154 letters from supporters of the IPOP, LLC Project which we are transmitting in this form for the convenience of ADEC.

**Governor Mike Dunleavy**  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 110001  
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

**Commissioner Jason Brune, ADEC**  
Department of Environmental  
Conservation  
410 Willoughby Avenue, Suite 303  
Juneau, AK 99801-1795

**Senator Lisa Murkowski**  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**Attorney General Treg R. Taylor**  
1031 West 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 200  
Anchorage, AK 99501

**Commissioner Corri A. Feige**  
Department of Natural Resources  
400 Willoughby Avenue, Fifth Floor  
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**Senator Dan Sullivan**  
302 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**Kip Knudsen**  
State and Federal Relations  
Office of the Governor,  
State of Alaska  
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**Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang**  
Department of Fish and Game  
1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am a limited partner in the IPOP dredge mining project in the Bonanza Channel near Nome. I fully support this project and applaud IPOP for its tenacity and commitment. That being said, I am reaching out to you for help. IPOP has been jumping through the USACE fire hoops for over 4 years now, while the Corps dangles the permit carrot. We have provided the Corps with everything they have required of us, yet still no permit. We need some assistance from someone who truly cares about their country and Alaska.

I am well apprised of the demands in this IPOP suction dredge mining project and proposal to mine its claims in the Bonanza Channel, as IPOP is a company with a high level of integrity and keeps it's limited partners informed.

Initially, I was just very curious to see if IPOP would actually find gold in a pretty deserted, forgotten area. Word in town was that IPOP were a bunch of suckers buying worthless claims thinking there was gold on them. Then about 4 or 5 other miners decided to try to sell them claims because they looked at IPOP as an easy target. When IPOP didn't take the bait I wondered what IPOP believed or knew that nobody else did. I was pulling for IPOP, as the manner in which IPOP was being treated gave me added interest and support for the project. I researched enough to make the decision to join the limited partnership, in spite of the fact that IPOP's own USACE project manager was working against them. It did make me nervous, wondering if a permit would ever be issued, with the person in charge of the task clearly didn't want them to have it.

Well, as you know, IPOP found gold there alright, and lots of it. I read in the Alaska Miner's Association magazine that IPOP made a "massive" gold discovery. As you also know, those people who were ridiculing the company were pretty ticked off, and now they expect the agencies to believe its about the environment? They own some highly toxic mines themselves but they keep raking in their millions with no care about the environment. They expect the

agencies to buy into the subsistence nonsense? Anyone near that area knows full well that nobody goes there for that because there's nothing to hunt.

With a "massive gold discovery", it seems to me that the agencies would enthusiastically jumping on board with this project. I believe it's Alaska's only hope right now, seeing how the state has nearly nothing else to help their budget. I can understand why the Native Tribes don't care, they have their own thing going on but why are they so against every project that isn't theirs? The agencies shouldn't be giving their protests any credibility.

I believe those Native Tribes throwing temper tantrums about this project are just jealous and angry that their own plans were thwarted. It is common knowledge what their plan was. They were in bed with Colby Engstrom, one of the miners who tried to soak IPOP for his 2 claims at the mouth of the Solomon River. When IPOP didn't bite, they figured they could use their insider, IPOP's project manager, Leslie Tose, to keep denying the permit while bankrupting IPOP with useless repeated tests and scientific studies. They figured that eventually IPOP would give up, abandon their millions of dollars in equipment and go home. Then the tribes and Colby would take the abandoned equipment, jump the claims, get their insider to sign off on the permit and live wealthily ever after. The plan was flawed already because it was underhanded and dependent on too many required actions of other people, but when Tose was booted from the project, their only hope was to keep IPOP from getting a permit. This isn't simply a rumor, this is direct knowledge.

I was in attendance at the virtual public meeting last year and I found it laughable that they're so desperate to put an end to IPOP they're now going for the "claims aren't valid" tactic. That makes about as much sense as their plan to steal IPOP's equipment and claims.

This project will help me and my family, Nome commerce and citizens, bring prosperity to the nation, and help save Alaska. IPOP will contribute millions to the economy without consequence to environment or anything or anyone. It is for these reasons that I advocate for this project and humbly ask for your help.

D. Copher, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

*cc:*

*- IPOP, LLC*

*- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law*

*- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP*

*- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

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P.O. Box 115526  
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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

Please accept this letter as a request for your assistance in the issuance of all permits associated with the IPOP gold dredge mining project in the Bonanza Channel.

I support the IPOP mining project. I will address issues that are highly relevant to me as a limited partner and to the project itself.

SUBSISTENCE is not an issue; however, it is an objection, predominantly from some Native Tribes. One Tribe in particular went so far as to create a Facebook site in a desperate attempt to generate public comment submissions objecting to the IPOP mining project. Any resident of Nome knows full well that subsistence is unattainable where IPOP claims are located. I perceive that the Kawarek Tribal members were aware of this and reasoned that they needed to up their game; especially considering they had exhausted all of their public comment extensions. I have irrefutable evidence that an employee of the Army Corps of Engineers was a participant in this endeavor to prevent the IPOP project from mining now or ever, and the USACE is in possession of that evidence and has been since September 2020.

GOLD is present on IPOP claims and has been proven with coring samples submitted to the Army Corps of Engineers, as required by the Corps for the IPOP mining project. I challenge the Corps to investigate this "requirement" demanded of IPOP. Coring samples and proof of gold are not listed among the requirements to obtain a mining permit from the Corps. I know of no other mining operation issued this mandate. This is one of many examples of the unfair, biased treatment IPOP has endured from the Corps.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT is of utmost importance to me and in my experience, to most United States citizens. This is not a new concern, evidenced by the Clean Air Act of 1963. The truth is, most if not all products must be environmentally sound if you purchase them within the United States or if they are to be shipped to the United States. IPOP takes its responsibility to the environment very seriously. We have proven that with our process. We may be the only mining operation in Alaska that doesn't employ the use of chemicals to filter gold from the sand and gravel – IPOP uses gravity in this process. I understand that our current project manager is educated in the area of environmental science and should of course recognize that IPOP causes no distress to the environment, as presented in our studies and reports submitted to the Corps.

ALASKA STATE CONSTITUTION grants every citizen of the United States, aged 18 years or older to mine the resources of Alaska. It does not contain a preclusion for baseless objections from Native Tribes or any other person or organization, disgruntled employees of any agency, or anyone else. IPOP and all partners of IPOP are U. S. citizens of majority age and qualify as having the right to mine Alaska's resources upon completion of requirements to obtain a permit.

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS PART 2635.101 – STANDARDS OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS  
Applies to every employee of the Executive Branch. At least 70% of these requirements have been violated by IPOP's former project manager as it pertains to IPOP and this project. This conduct has cost IPOP, its partners, and the State of Alaska millions of dollars. While our former project manager was managing the project, IPOP was met with aggressive, antagonistic behaviors from the Corps. IPOP is not difficult to work with; the State Agencies have been professional, helpful and appropriately friendly.

ECONOMY is of great importance to IPOP. The economy of Alaska is in trouble and this is known nationwide. It is absurd that the Corps has failed to recognize or acknowledge this fact. When a proposal to conduct a safe, environmentally friendly operation, of no harm to anybody requests a permit to conduct an activity that will be instrumental in igniting a distressed economy, how is it met with such animosity from the very agency to whom it's being offered? How does it ignite a campaign to stop the operation at any cost? Those are the questions the Corps should be asking of their employee(s).

President Trump enacted an executive order to numerous agencies, including U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to bypass these tedious objections and sign off on the permits to get miners to work. Governor Dunleavy has made his position abundantly clear in favor of permitting all miners who will benefit Alaska.

I am of the opinion the USACE is duty bound to grant the regulatory permits needed for this project to proceed, yet to date has failed to do so. I respectfully request your assistance in this matter, as I see no indication that the Corps has any intention of granting said permits. I deeply appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

D Crowell, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Dear Commissioner Brune,

I support permitting IPOP and I appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the economic recovery of Alaska. IPOP LLC and its limited partners have been attempting to procure the Individual Permit to mine its claims in the Bonanza Channel for over 4 years, while the US ACE has prevented us from it, and continues to do so.

About 3 years ago, prior to backing this gold dredge mining operation, I researched IPOP and the proposed mining project on the Bonanza Channel. I was particularly interested in the environmental impact, the benefits to Alaska and the country as a whole, and the validity of the vocal opposition. There were no negative comments from the State agencies, only the one federal agency, which was of interest to me, as IPOP claims are on State land only, not federal. Honestly, I wondered why the feds would really care, given the fact that their land is unaffected. The only opposition seemed to be confined to a couple of Native Tribes, a few begrudged miners and astonishingly, IPOP's project manager at the US Army Corps of Engineers. I was very surprised to think that the Corps would allow such behavior. I understand the permitting process but I don't think IPOP's own Army Corps project manager should be out to get them, and she definitely had a grudge against the company and the project. It seemed IPOP's failure was the only goal of the project manager.

I surmised that Alaskans would want the opposite. Alaska was and is facing economic disaster while this project manager was standing in the way of their seemingly only hope. In my opinion, the US Army Corps has a duty to not only the country, but to the state to which they are assigned. This biased, unfair treatment has cost IPOP and the State of Alaska millions.

I have seen the Native Tribes opposing this project, post pathetic appeals to stop IPOP because some fish might not have any eelgrass to eat. The tribes are sovereign nations, who have to the luxury to care more about fish and other animals than they do about the human suffering and an economy that won't affect them. They pretend to care about the wild animals being inconvenienced. So what if a wild animal has to move? It's what they do. What about humans who have to move because they don't have the money to stay put? What about the families and children who have nowhere to go because they're out of work and out of money? Animals don't pay bills, they don't wear clothes, they don't pay utilities or taxes, they don't have medical expense, they don't need school supplies or gas for their cars. And the hypocrisy is laughable. One minute they're complaining about the poor animals being inconvenienced and the next minute they're complaining because if they move they can't hunt and kill them.

IPOP has spent 4 years and millions of dollars proving itself worthy of a permit to mine their legally purchased claims. IPOP has a constitutional right to their claims and a constitutional and legal right to mine them. It's time for the Army Corps of Engineers to stop playing games, and issue the permit. Enough is enough.

I am in favor of this project for the aforementioned reasons and more. I am in favor of this project because it will save Alaska. It may take a few years, but recovery can start this this year. Please try to help IPOP commence mining June 1, 2021.

D. Dunn  
IPOP LLC Backer

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cc:

- IPOP, LLC
- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law
- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP
- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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**Congressman Don Young**  
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Dear Commissioner Brune

Thank you taking the time to read my letter today. This letter is a solicitation for help with regard to the IPOP project permit to mine placer gold from its claims in the Bonanza Channel. As a limited partner of the IPOP dredge mining operation I am familiar with this project and believe there are a number of reasons to grant these permits; however, IPOP has been jumping through USACE hoops for 4 years, to no avail. It is for this reason that I am requesting your support and assistance.

IPOP has complied with every single thing that USACE has thrown at them, including things that are well outside of the guidelines (i.e. required core sample for proof of gold presence and quantity just to name one). In 2020 our permit application was accepted by the USACE and deemed complete. Subsequently, USACE accommodated a Public Comment period commencing July 31, in direct violation of a Presidential Executive Order issued on June 4, 2020 and was still in effect – and I believe it still is. The Public Comment period was extended twice, causing it to expire at midnight on September 30, conveniently at the end of the season. Now nearly a year and a few more scientific studies later, USACE has informed IPOP that we must do a case study, apply for a permit for the case study, which IPOP has done, and there we were again, stuck in another Public Comment Period that was of course granted an extension – still in violation of the Executive Order.

There are other considerations as well.

First, there is the present economic crisis caused by the Covid disaster. The National economy has been adversely affected and Nome and Alaska didn't elude it. This is specifically why President Trump issued the aforementioned executive order to federal agencies to do everything possible to help the economy recover. I'm not sure how the Army Corps of Engineers was able to ignore the order but obviously they were. This project is a perfect example of operations that can benefit the economy by producing jobs, paying taxes and bringing prosperity to the state and the country. This is precisely the type of project the 45<sup>th</sup> President was talking about.

Second, there is the environment. IPOP has proven with scientific studies that this operation causes no negative impact to the environment, whether land, water, air or noise. No chemicals are used and all potential environmental issues were attended to before IPOP even arrived in Nome.

Third, there is subsistence. The area of IPOP claims is ironically *well known* to be a *forgotten* area. This has been the case for years until IPOP bought the claims. Now it's the most talked about area in Nome. Unfortunately, the people talking about it aren't exactly friendly. They should be talking about how great



it is that somebody is turning an isolated area, not used for anything, into a treasure trove for Alaskans. All of a sudden it's being touted as the hottest subsistence area in and around Nome. It's utter nonsense, but it is what they're holding onto to keep IPOP from mining, and far away from Alaska. We have submitted governmental records that indisputably refute the claims of subsistence use.

Fourth, there is the right to mine. IPOP, along with every US adult citizen has the right to mine in Alaska. A few Native tribes are of the opinion that nobody other than themselves have a right to anything in Alaska, because their ancestors got a raw deal in 1492. It is true, the Natives got shafted 500 years ago, which is the purpose of the hundreds of acres given to them by the federal government. This does not, however, give them authority over the entire state or every mining operation located outside their land.

Fifth and finally, there is the issue of objections. Nearly all objections still circulating are based on deceit, fear-mongering, self-entitlement, power and control. IPOP has proven these objections to be misguided and fictitious, while providing science to corroborate every assertion made in favor of the project. Therefore, I believe it's time to issue the permit.

An assessment of this project has clearly revealed that IPOP should have been issued a permit a long time ago, and should be issued a permit now. I hope you agree with these facts and support our request for a permit that has been unfairly withheld from us for far too long

Best Regards,

D. Hanser, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune,

I hereby express my support for the IPOP suction dredge mining project and request that it be added to the permanent record. I believe this project can be a great success for Alaska and the United States of America. I disclose that I am one of approximately 150+ limited partners involved in this project with IPOP LLC

I believe in America and I believe that it is the obligation of the US Army Corps of Engineers to approve and permit any project possessing the ability to create wealth and opportunities for our great nation. IPOP has scientifically proven itself to be that project.

Core samples taken from IPOP claims indicate significant gold presence in remunerative amounts. Conservatively, IPOP is confident that it can produce well over 100,000 troy ounces of gold per season, of which Alaska will receive 3% as royalties.

The outlying location of IPOP claims is so remote and isolated, the local residents do not use these lands, in fact, even the animals don't use this land due to lack of food. IPOP expects to dredge approximately 20 acres per season with one dredge, which is a minuscule fraction of the entire Safety Sound / Bonanza Channel inland waterway consisting of roughly 15,000 acres, leaving 14,980 acres for their desired activities.

Erroneous statements have been made by some Native Tribes and USACE regarding the Bonanza Channel area where IPOP claims are located. It has been stated that there is no gold in these inland waters, there is eelgrass present on the claims, dredging in these waters will create turbidity that will prevent salmon from spawning, local residents and Native Tribes use the area for subsistence to feed their families, IPOP does not employ practical methods for dredging, IPOP will destroy the land with their encampment, IPOP is uncharitable and callous, IPOP has refused to meet with Native Tribes, IPOP is detrimental to the environment; and the rhetoric goes on to claim every atrocity imaginable, even addressing that IPOP is a California conglomerate threatening to ruin Nome and everything else in its path. Please remember *who* has been making these ridiculous allegations for the past 3+ years. IPOP has proven every last one of these assertions to be mendacious propaganda, with science, written requests to the USACE to host a meeting with Native Tribes (which was ignored), an actual meeting with a Tribal Leader, etc.

The Constitution of Alaska provides for every citizen over the age of 18, the right to mine mineral resources, and IPOP has lawfully leased these inland water claims from the State of Alaska for the purpose of mining. IPOP has the right to mine, provided it does so in a manner consistent with all applicable laws and regulations – which IPOP has provided in its Plan of Operation.

I urge you to support the IPOP project and help offer any assistance you can for the issuance of all required permits for this project to proceed immediately. Thank you.

Yours Truly,

D. H. Lince, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

*cc:*

*- IPOP, LLC*

*- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law*

*- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP*

*- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

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Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
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Dear Commissioner Brune

I want to first express my support of the IPOP, LLC permit to mine for gold in the Bonanza Channel. I appreciate your attention to this letter, as the issues contained herein are important.

I am one of approximately 150+ limited partners in the IPOP dredge mining operation in the Bonanza Channel just outside of Nome. We have been waiting for a permit to mine our claims for over 4 years, while USACE continues playing games, thinking of new things to require of us regardless of having given them everything they have required and demanded, yet we still have no permit to mine the claims we legally obtained - for the purpose of mining them.

I *do* appreciate the permitting process and the high standards by which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers stands to protect our environment. I fully support a thorough fact finding mission of the issues to uphold assertions for *and* against the issuance of any mining permit. I *do not* support or appreciate the fact that a USACE employee has repeatedly exercised non-adherence to Corps guidelines, timelines and standards of ethics, to the detriment of the very project she was assigned to for permit approval. I appreciate that she was removed from the project in September of 2020, but a lot of costly damage was done. Unfortunately, IPOP isn't the only one who suffered; the country, Alaska, Nome, state governments and the federal government suffered as well.

IPOP has submitted science, facts and data for the USACE to review regarding the effectiveness of mining for gold in the Bonanza Channel with no lasting effects on the environment. There is ample evidence in the submitted reports and studies requested to satisfy all environmental concerns raised by both the public, and officials at the Corps.

Per Governor Michael Dunleavy, mining is essential for the survival the State of Alaska, which is what everyone should desire. The only people who would not desire the survival of the state are the people who either have nothing to gain from it, or the people with underhanded intentions to grab the gold for themselves. IPOP has factual information that the native tribes opposing this project had that very intention; which is not only underhanded, but of absolutely no benefit to the State of Alaska, only to their own sovereign nations.

The founders of IPOPOP based the locations of its' claims on years of research of past mining operation locations, the study of geologic movement, and predictions of iconic geologist Alfred Brooks, present during the 1898 Nome gold rush. The IPOPOP partnership was formed with the confidence of the prudent-person principle, which has now been proven with core samples containing what could indicate one of the largest finds on the Seward Peninsula, just as Alfred Brooks predicted over 100 years ago.

Those opposing IPOPOP have failed to disprove IPOPOP assertions, while **IPOPOP has successfully disproven every assertion from opposition.**

**Science and data must outweigh baseless accusations.** The science and data IPOPOP has submitted authenticates this project as environmentally sound, a highly profitable mining operation providing revenue that will continue to benefit Alaska for decades to come, and in the manner Governor Dunleavy is advocating: *"The reason why we want you to invest in Alaska is because we believe we protect our environment better than any other place on the planet."*

It is my sincerest hope that you can appreciate what has gone on here and help us.

Kind regards,

D. J. Sperber, Limited Partner IPOPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOPOP, LLC
- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law
- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP
- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Dear Commissioner Brune

I fully support IPOP and approve of the immediate issuance of all permits associated with the IPOP dredge mining project.

IPOP's request for permits has been met with three years of delays and animosity from your predecessor. I hereby offer my comments regarding the series of delays on the project directly attributed to the biased, unethical actions of USACE. These actions are particularized below:

1. Obstructed IPOP's progress at every course of action for over 4 years
2. Persistently non-compliant with numerous response timelines
3. Requirement of coring sample submission
4. Suppressed IPOP coring permits until weather conditions prevented coring activity
5. Mandated a public comment period with complete disregard of a Presidential Executive Order
6. Requested an extension to the public comment period on behalf of Kawarek, Inc (whom IPOP does not effect in any manner)
7. Falsified facts, inciting unfounded fear among locals
8. Required additional studies and testing based on her own deceptive fabrications
9. Withheld IPOP's submissions until after deadlines elapsed
10. Harbors a serious conflict of interest against IPOP
11. Advocates for opposition to IPOP
12. Participates in a "Stop IPOP" campaign on Facebook with the Kawarek tribe
13. Currently conducts an opposition survey posted on same Facebook site, even after removal from the IPOP project
14. Misrepresents IPOP's operation using social media, KNOM and Nome Nugget to negatively sway public perception of IPOP
15. Falsely stated that there is no gold on IPOP's claims
16. Implemented abuse of power, exploiting her position at the USACE as project manager for IPOP
17. Falsely claimed to the public and native tribes that families will starve from lack of subsistence due to the location of IPOP claims
18. Manipulated this public comment to provide her *own* negative comments
19. Exerted undue influence with native tribes and the public to deny IPOP the right to mine
20. Publicly provided an email to copy/paste/fill in name/submit to USACE in opposition to IPOP in this public comment procedure
21. Culpable of gross negligence by failure to inform the public of the many benefits IPOP brings to Alaska

22. Caused IPOP and it's partners the loss of millions with excessive, unwarranted delays and superfluous repeated scientific studies
23. Caused Alaska the loss of millions in royalties, commerce and taxes
24. Stonewalled economic recovery for the state of Alaska
25. Violated numerous Standards of Ethics

IPOP has proven their case for a permit, while USACE has not proven its case to deny a permit. I believe the USACE is obligated to grant the regulatory permits needed for this project to proceed expeditiously, just as President Trump ordered. I appreciate your support and/or action on this matter.

Very truly yours,  
D Laughead, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

*cc:*

*- IPOP, LLC*

*- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law*

*- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP*

*- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

**Governor Mike Dunleavy**  
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**Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang**  
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1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am a limited partner of IPOPOP, and pleased to share my support in a decision to advance the issuances of all permits. IPOPOP is ready to begin mining this season.

As a limited partner of IPOPOP I am honored to be involved in the reshaping of the process of how minerals are sourced. IPOPOP's design and construction of water mining equipment transforms the process and sets in motion a new chapter in placer mining. No discharge of chemicals or pollutants, sonar mapping for a reclamation process, leaving the site identical or more enhanced than before, and equipment quiet enough so as not to exceed wildlife regulations. The IPOPOP operation comes before all others in a departure from reliance upon grimy mining operations that damage the environment and/or interfere with wildlife.

I understand the significance of due diligence in this process. Unfortunately, the former project manager initially assigned to the IPOPOP project has compromised the process with negative and untrue statements about the project and even the company. We cannot undo what has already been done; however, we can redirect the future. Removing her from our project was a good start; however, did not seem to change much for IPOPOP and its partners.

It is a great pleasure to be a part of the economic recovery that IPOPOP will bring to the state and local economy. Alaska is in bad shape and needs recovery. It will be the greatest pleasure to witness the recovery of Alaska. Obviously, I also have personal reasons for my passion about this endeavor; I believe the partners of IPOPOP will realize tremendous financial benefits as well. I do not participate in any endeavor I am not passionate about. I did my research before stepping on board. I am so passionate and confident about this project and about IPOPOP, I didn't allow the negative statements and interviews from Leslie Tose dissuade my commitment. Of course I was concerned, as it seemed as though she never had any intention of issuing a permit; however, I do believe that truth and science prevails over deceit and unsavory agendas. I'm grateful I was patient and I was grateful for



the choice the Corps made by replacing her with someone with a background conducive to the project.

IPOP has complied with all requests to alleviate public comment concerns. It appears as if many times along the way we have been interminably delayed for the permits to simply perform the tests being asked of us, (coring, vegetation and turbidity) for example. We are not looking for preferential treatment or favors for the remainder of the permitting process. We are simply asking for fair, unbiased treatment. The project should be approved and permitted upon review of our most recent studies, which would in fact represent fair and unbiased treatment. I ask for an expedited process, given the numerous unwarranted delays, prior to your assignment to the IPOP project. When the Corps delves into the history of this project, I am confident they will agree that this process has in fact been unfairly delayed and obstructed. There are a number of regulatory response times violated by the Corps.

With the record late freezes in the recent years, there is very limited time for IPOP to mine this season. There is very limited time for Alaska to begin receiving revenue to build into the 2022 budget. The time is very limited but there *is* still time.

I am making a plea for you to accept scientific data, abandon the hysterical, unfounded proclamations and determine that IPOP has proven to be an asset to Alaska, deserving of mining permits for 2021.

Very truly yours,

Doug P, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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**Congressman Don Young**  
**2314 Rayburn House Office Building**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

Dear Commissioner Brune

I hereby request your assistance in the consideration of the approval of the IPOPOP permit for the gold mining operation in the Bonanza Channel. I approve of the issuance of all permits necessary to mine, and disclose that I am a limited partner in IPOPOP, LLC.

I believe and support the integrity of the project. IPOPOP has consistently revealed its respect for the local population in Nome and the best interests of the state. IPOPOP is a Chamber of Commerce member and has the unbiased support of the organization. IPOPOP has contributed in excess of \$3 Million to various Alaska businesses and charities. IPOPOP pledged to interface with the Iditarod Trail and Iron Dog organizations to avoid interference with race routes. IPOPOP has not and will not cross Native Lands for ingress or egress of the project site, and the Natives Tribes are and have always been aware of this.

The project is comprised of intelligent, law abiding United States citizens. The royalty fee of 3% of the proceeds of this project will go to the State of Alaska, which will amount to millions annually. IPOPOP and its partners aren't complaining about that. They aren't accommodating local media with abhorrent interviews, or starting Facebook campaigns, or rabble rousing because they're greedy and want all the money. IPOPOP respects the regulations associated with the mining project that will go to the state. As a matter of fact, they are honored to be an integral participant in the recovery of Alaska's economic disaster. It is very unfortunate that the bias has been made so evident throughout this 4 year process against the "outsider California mining company" and is so deeply ingrained that they do not want to recognize outreach attempts or make the effort to acknowledge science.

IPOPOP has been the subject of unsubstantiated, arbitrary attacks causing wrongfully influenced delays while other toxic Tribal mining projects operate candidly. I have become disillusioned by the unethical practices of IPOPOP's own USACE project manager assigned by the ACE, leaving many to question where the lines between due process and undue influence are drawn.

Hopefully, you will recognize the importance of seeing to it that more rational and science-based heads will finally prevail. I am hopeful that I will be able to once again place faith and trust in a decent and just system. IPOPOP must be treated fairly and without bias by the ACE, which has not been the case thus far.

Duly given rights of IPOPOP and its partners as citizens of the United States must be recognized. Native Tribes claim sovereignty and I take no offense to that; however, I am offended by their baseless allegations and theatrics taking priority over tax paying, law abiding American citizens who are indeed abiding by statutes of the United States of America.

IPOPOP has submitted science while Native Tribes and other opponents have submitted unsubstantiated protestations, emotional outbursts and unethical practices to get their way. I urge you to assist in the approval of permits for IPOPOP directly.

Regards,  
D. P. Rasmussen, Limited Partner IPOPOP LLC

*cc:*

*- IPOPOP, LLC*

*- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law*

*- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP*

*- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am in support of the IPOP mining project and I am asking for not only your support but your help.

I am an IPOP limited partner aware that IPOP has submitted scientific evidence that this is an environmentally safe mining project, causing no harm to any person, place or thing, but in fact, quite the contrary. This project will be instrumental in the recovery of Alaska's economic disaster.

I am aware of the opposition, most vocally from Native Tribes, who oppose most everything that isn't a project of their own. I have a few basic rules I follow in life, both professional and personal. One of my rules is - in the absence of an understanding, refer to the contract and adhere to the terms of the contract. Another is - when science disproves theory, rethink the theory and adhere to the findings of the science. Science has collided with the barricade of baseless opposition for years; however, science triumphs.

The campaign "Stop IPOP: Keep Safety Safe" was a case in point. Keep Safety safe from what? The use of it as a resource for subsistence? How many hunting licenses or permits have been issued over the last 5 years, or even 10 years? It's that simple - check the license/permit applications for the specific area where IPOP claims are situated.

IPOP's responsible mining project is not synonymous with downright destruction of a habitat. I was both optimistic and confident that the 2020 submission of IPOP's in-depth environmental studies would satisfy the Corps that IPOP had proven its case with science, and would ultimately issue permits regardless of hysterical, unsubstantiated opposition. I was, and continue to be disappointed by the Corps. Please do the right thing for not only over 100 limited IPOP partners who are all US citizens, but Alaska and its citizens as well we desperately need your help.

Very truly yours,

D. Rys  
Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:  
- IPOP, LLC  
- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law  
- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP  
- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am writing to you in support of the IPOP mining proposal. I am a limited partner in the suction dredge mining operation. The timing is now paramount. Royalty tax alone will provide Alaska with much needed funds to help replace dwindling oil revenue and to soften the blow that Covid-19 has dealt to tourism.

IPOP has been compliant in responding to every concern and request for the last 4 years, all the while being an outstanding contributor to local business and taxes and a charitable force in the community we are closest to, Nome. With that being said, I am hard-pressed to understand why the fairly straight-forward steps in this permitting process have taken so long to administer by the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

Nevertheless, here we are today at the final stage.

After an unreasonable period of time, IPOP—was at last issued long awaited permits to do so—has completed the required studies requested by the US ACE to address and disprove the following public concerns:

1. the widespread existence of eelgrass—less than 1 acre found in 600 acres: 1/10 of a percent
2. lingering turbidity in the water disturbing fish movement—mitigated by use of the Army Corp's approved method; a double turbidity curtain

Other concerns submitted in **previous** public comment periods which can be proven false or wildly exaggerated based on the **facts** are the following:

1. Widespread and significant subsistence use—public records show from zero-6 subsistence permits listed in that area. Even if the entire area were used, IPOP's operation is limited to approximately 20 acres. This does not infringe significantly on use. Are we to believe that they can't survive on the remaining 14,980 acres where wildlife is actually present?
2. Noise pollution adversely affecting wildlife. IPOP has taken every step in its custom equipment design to insulate and dampen decibel levels to within accepted published safe parameters for wildlife.
3. The Channel will be permanently altered. Again, from the beginning stages of our project IPOP has designed our equipment with full restoration/reclamation as its standard, using state-of-the-art sonar to map the bottom, and redistribute material to its original state.

I'll close by urging you to support this mining operation, having proven itself with science and data provided, and help us get approval for 2021 mining permits for IPOP. I believe we have proven our good intent, our high standards of operation and science-based findings and it is high time for the US ACE to step up.

Thank you,

D. Spinato, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

*cc:*

*- IPOP, LLC*

*- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law*

*- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP*

*- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am writing to declare my support for the proposed IPOPOP mining project in the Bonanza Channel, of which I am a limited partner, and to ask for your support and help with the approval and issuance of the permit to mine.

IPOPOP has been delayed for over four years by USACE. USACE has exceeded regulatory deadlines for responses to requests to conduct work on the IPOPOP mining claims. USACE has conducted anti-IPOPOP surveys on the phone while continuing to obstruct a permit to IPOPOP to mine its claims, participated in surveys, petitions and raffles that are held to motivate the locals to write public comments in opposition to IPOPOP, and even directed the public to ask bogus questions about issues with this mining project that simply do not exist. This was all done in writing and easily verifiable.

Mining has been a long standing tradition in Alaska, including Nome, for over 100 years and suddenly, endangered species have taken up residence on IPOPOP claims, per USACE and Kawarek, Inc. This spurious claim is in direct conflict with the known habitats of all 5 species USACE listed in one of many interviews in KNOM and Nome Nugget, per ADFG.

A handful of Nome miners offered IPOPOP \$22+ million in mining claim "deals" when they first arrived. IPOPOP saw it for what it was and when they refused these local offerings, these very people instantaneously developed an alarming concern about feeding their families without the subsistence [that doesn't exist] on IPOPOP claims attributable to the coaching of USACE via social media and news outlets. Perhaps these folks were relying too heavily on their abilities to soak IPOPOP.

IPOPOP has irrefutably proven every assertion they have made about this project and should be issued the warranted permit that has been obstructed with game-playing, unfair treatment and bias tactics employed by USACE for over 4 years. I believe it is literally the *very least* the USACE could do, but also the proper thing to do, based upon the integrity IPOPOP has proven to possess.

Alaska needs this project, the country needs this project, Nome needs this project. 2020 was a disaster with the effects of Covid 19 and we all need a windfall – this *is* that windfall.

Yours truly,

D. Tucker, IPOP LLC Backer

*cc:*

*- IPOP, LLC*

*- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law*

*- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP*

*- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*



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1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I'm a proud limited partner of IPOP and happy to declare my support in the decision to move forward with the issuances of all permits allowing IPOP to dredge in the Bonanza Channel, and to therefore assist the state of Alaska in their financial crisis. I am writing to ask you to support and assist IPOP in the procurement of the permits needed for us to assist Alaska.

Mining is a long standing tradition in Alaska and is a dominant economic force in Alaska. Alaska needs IPOP's mining operations to assist in recovery of its current economic disaster.

IPOP has produced core sampling with undeniable physical evidence of vast amounts of gold within its purchased claims. The extrapolation of gold in grams per ton are among the highest ever seen in Nome. This windfall will immediately help reduce government budget deficits and allow you, Governor Dunleavy to potentially reinstate popular programs such as Ferry Service that were unfortunately cut to mitigate spending and revenue. IPOP's local expenditures will continue to support a suffering community hammered by the pandemic crisis, resulting in an absolute absence of tourism.

IPOP has performed data research and collection, scientific studies, and has purchased the safeguarding double turbidity curtain to assure the concerns of the repeated public comment periods are met. IPOP has complied with all conditions and provided detailed operational intent in its application. The most recent scientific studies have been submitted to the Army Corps of Engineers has been reviewed.

I realize there has been local opposition to this project, predominantly from native tribes and a few miners who have an axe to grind. Any opposition to this project is based on bias, greed, jealousy, discrimination, unsubstantiated allegations and untrue proclamations professed by *some* Native Tribes, the USACE itself, and a handful of miners and fishing operations; none of whom are affected by the IPOP mining operation.

IPOP has scientifically proven its entitlement to mining permits. Opposition has proven absolutely nothing other than their ability to create irrationality, orchestrated photographs and Facebook sites. It is the responsibility of the USACE to issue a mining permit to IPOP based upon scientific evidence. Please help us.

Thank you,

D. Zhang, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:

- *IPOP, LLC*

- *J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law*

- *James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP*

- *Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

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1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
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Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am writing in support of the IPOP permit application to suction dredge the Bonanza Channel in 2021 and to request your assistance in procuring the permit to mine its claims, which have been obstructed by USACE for over 4 years. There have been objections to this project that appear to take priority over IPOP and I would like to address them individually below.

Below are the facts that refute the objections against this project, supporting IPOP's right to be granted a permit:

**EELGRASS:** IPOP has submitted this scientific study proving less than ½ percent of one acre of eelgrass within 600 acres

**ENVIRONMENT:** IPOP is environmentally friendly, employing no chemicals, using gravity to separate sand and gravel from gold, then returned to the floor, less the gold and any potential contaminants if contained within the dredge.

**SUBSISTENCE:** The IPOP crew has observed no subsistence, berry picking, birdwatching, or any other activity on IPOP claims, spanning the last 5 years.

**NATIVE TRIBES:** The native tribes opposing IPOP own some of the largest and most toxic mines in the world. They are making millions mining them, yet oppose IPOP. The hypocrisy alone is shameful.

**GOLD:** Whether there is or is not gold present on IPOP claims is irrelevant.

Nevertheless, abundant gold has been proven with core samples submitted to the USACE.

**ECONOMY:** As a royalty partner, Alaska will receive a 3% royalty fee from IPOP every year and for future generations. IPOP creates jobs, pays taxes, escalates commerce, contributes to a number of local charities and has received unsolicited, unbiased support from the Nome Chamber of Commerce.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** There were 5 endangered species listed purported to habituate on IPOP claims in a Nome Nugget interview by IPOP's former USACE project manager. The species listed and purported to have been sighted on the claims are very unlikely to exist in that area, per ADFG; furthermore, the most common cause of death to these endangered species is listed as Native Tribe hunters.

DECEPTION OF INVALID CLAIMS: This is a serious accusation against the State agencies. This objection is accusing the State of fraud and I would hope the USACE would view this objection for what is – desperately grasping at straws. Desperate measures such as these are typically employed when there is no real substance to justify the argument. IPOP does not support this theory of invalid claims and will continue to preserve the reputation of the State agencies on this matter.

DECEPTION THAT IPOP HAS SUBMITTED NO SCIENCE OR EVIDENCE: This claim could not be farther from the truth. The USACE is in possession of scientific studies, data collection, core samples and more submitted to the agency by IPOP. The truth is, the opposition has submitted no science or evidence to support their erroneous protestations.

Some complaints from those opposing this project are stating that IPOP will interfere with longstanding traditions of their ancestors and of Alaskans as a whole. The irony of this statement is that *not* to permit IPOP stands against Alaska's long tradition of mining, and would be against its own constitution. There hasn't been a project in Alaska in the last 50 years I'm aware of that hasn't received vocal opposition, including opposition from the native tribes, yet permits are granted.

The reality is, Alaska desperately needs this project to help its flailing economy and there is no due cause to withhold a permit any longer from IPOP. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of the issues raised in this letter. At this time, I ask that you grant IPOP a permit.

Respectfully,

E. Galbreath, IPOP LLC Backer

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am writing to request your assistance for the United State Army Corps of Engineers to issue permits to IPOPOP to mine their claims in the Bonanza Channel.

I am in favor of this project because as a citizen of the United States I have serious concern about the current economic disaster in Alaska. The mineral resources of Alaska was the very reason the United States purchased the state from Russia and subsequently admitted Alaska into the union as the 49<sup>th</sup> State. This was to create prosperity for all Americans to thrive. Alaska, in turn, wrote the rights to mine for all American citizens into their own state constitution.

IPOPOP supports Alaska's great tradition of mining and wealth creation, evidenced in the latest scientific studies submitted to the US ACE

Native Tribes near Nome have been raising quite a fuss about this project, convinced that they are powerful enough to stop IPOPOP and put over 100 Americans out of business. I believe IPOPOP's first USACE Project Manager was successful in convincing them of this by availing herself as their insider; unfortunately for them, she was removed from the project and that threw a crimp into things. They have escalated their strategy since then, with a number of tactics to convince the US ACE that IPOPOP is evil and cannot mine the claims. This is so important to them, that they haven't issued a single scientific study to refute IPOPOP's. They are well aware they haven't a chance of succeeding with that, so they have resorted to the subsistence tactic. 'IPOPOP will starve our families and they're so mean, they don't even care' is the nature of their newest rhetoric. Anyone in or around Nome knows this is rubbish; the location of IPOPOP claims can't be used for subsistence with no animals or fish present. Additionally, IPOPOP asked US ACE to host a meeting with the opposing Native Tribes in an effort to assuage their fears and hopefully create a camaraderie. The request was ignored. IPOPOP had a meeting with Liz Johnson of Solomon Village that only lasted 20 minutes because she abruptly left the meeting when she was informed of the benign nature of the project. IPOPOP has made numerous other direct attempts to meet with the Native Tribes, to no avail.

Mining and fishing are longstanding traditions in Alaska and the two industries need to coexist. IPOPOP does not interfere with fishing, subsistence, eelgrass, spawning, environment or anything else; therefore, there is no valid reason to deny the permit based on opposition.

Opposing IPOP is a sharp rebuke to every Alaskan who truly appreciates the relevance of mining Alaska's precious mineral resources for their own benefit while protecting individual rights. Many of these people have been deliberately misinformed by IPOP's former US ACE project manager with unscrupulous intent, who has been the driving force behind their fears. IPOP's operation will soon alleviate those fears while paving the way of the future for all mining, employing a revolutionary technique of a safe and environmentally sound procedure for all miners.

I again request your help in the approval of a permit for IPOP and hope for Alaska.

Sincerely,  
E. Kuljis, IPOP LLC Backer

*cc:*

- IPOP, LLC*
- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law*
- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP*
- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

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**Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang**  
Department of Fish and Game  
1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I wholly support the IPOP mining project because the data and science of this project has been submitted to the US Army Corps of Engineers, determining IPOP a project worthy of a permit. I am reaching out to you to ask for your support of this project for the approval of a permit to mine.

I have backed this mining project for over four years and I don't believe anyone can argue the fact that IPOP has been faced with extreme bias from their former USACE project manager, costing the company millions. Scrupulous consideration should be given to this unfortunate circumstance while analyzing the facts and determining IPOP's readiness for a permit.

IPOP has proven the science, the equipment, the process, the objections to be false with dishonorable intent, the economic benefits to Alaska and Nome, the unethical conduct and bias of their former project manager - so what is the Corps waiting for? This company needs a permit without further delay, and I believe the Corps would be hard-pressed to find a single reason not to grant it.

Alaska doesn't have the luxury of waiting another year for some financial relief and I believe IPOP has been put through enough. Many companies would have given up or been bankrupt by now, but IPOP is still standing strong. That alone should speak volumes about the company.

I believe it would be unjust to require another test, another study or another delay. From my perception, the permit should be issued immediately.

Your support of the Individual Permit issuance is appreciated.

Yours truly,  
E Sandler, IPOP LLC Backer

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune:

I am a limited partner in the IPOP dredge mining operation and I believe we are able to safely and cleanly process these gold bearing sands to benefit the state and local governments, the federal government, and our partnership. I believe that the required permits should have been issued years ago and I believe they should now be issued immediately to allow IPOP to begin mining in the Bonanza Channel in June 2021.

I understand the importance of safety, a clean job site, environmental awareness, and proper regulation. IPOP adheres to the same high standards as myself. I know that mining operations can leave the area mined in poor shape with scars that take centuries to repair. This is not the way that IPOP does business. Using advanced sonar and computer technology, IPOP will be able to restore the channel bottom to very near its original condition.

The entire economy has been affected by the CoVid crisis and Nome and Alaska are not exceptions. The 45<sup>th</sup> President, Donald Trump issued a directive to all federal agencies to do everything possible to help the economy recover. This project is one of the things that can benefit the economy. It will produce jobs and provide taxes.

Alaska needed the revenue prior to CoVid 19 and still needs the revenue today. IPOP can help. The State of Alaska will receive a 3% royalty of all gold produced. The federal government will receive income taxes from the partners on the remaining 97% after payment of operating costs. The present maximum tax rate is 37%. The overwhelming amount of the gold production will be taxed at this maximum rate less expenses and depletion. IPOP has core evidence that there is gold present in commercial quantities in the sands of the Bonanza Channel, and IPOP has equipment that is capable of processing those sands at very high speeds. We believe that our operation will be a boon to Nome, to Alaska, to the federal government, and to the IPOP backers. This operation will create roughly two dozen high paying jobs. There will also be a benefit to the local economy of Nome from the purchase of fuel and supplies. Many of the more 150+ partners will travel to Alaska to visit the dredge while it is operating. This will contribute tourism to the local economy. The total benefit to the Nome economy will be roughly seven figures per season while the total benefit to the Alaska economy could be well into eight figures per season.

IPOP will mine using methods that will not harm the environment. IPOP does not use any chemicals while mining. The dredge will simply vacuum up water and sand and then the gold will be separated from the sand using gravity. The water and sand are then returned to the waterway where the sand is deposited in the



trench that has been produced by the dredge. IPOPOP will use sonar and computer assistance to restore the bottom to its original condition. All of the equipment that will be used is insulated for noise reduction. The amount of noise that will be produced is no more than what is produced by the road nearby on the barrier islands.

The area where we propose to dredge is very remote and isolated. The population density is extremely low. Even the local residents do not use these lands for much. Our project is probably the most economically beneficial use for these lands. There is next to no subsistence usage, if any at all. But even this is small since there are few fish in these inland waters and there do not appear to be any game animals. In any event, we will only be able to dredge roughly 20 acres per season with one dredge. This is a minuscule fraction of the entire Safety Sound / Bonanza Channel inland waterway.

IPOPOP will create roughly two dozen high paying jobs. IPOPOP has very rigorous hiring standards. We have a zero-tolerance policy towards drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. All potential employees are given a criminal background check. Several IPOPOP employees are veterans. IPOPOP employees will not cause any problems with the local citizens.

Several false objections have been raised against this project. It has been claimed that there is eelgrass present in the area we wish to dredge. This is false. We have employed a marine biologist to conduct an extensive survey of the area. In roughly 600 acres surveyed, he found one patch of eelgrass that measured roughly 200' by 200'. That is less than one acre. It has also been claimed that dredging will create a turbidity plume that will prevent fish from reaching their spawning areas. This is also false. There is almost no current in this area of the channel. We have measured the value of the current at less than 0.5 FPS. In addition, IPOPOP has agreed to utilize a turbidity curtain to contain turbidity. We have tested this and shown that it works perfectly. Turbidity is a non-issue.

I ask that you do whatever is in your power to help facilitate issuance of the Individual Permit to IPOPOP to allow dredge mining. There is very little risk to anyone other than the partners and everyone in the nation will benefit from IPOPOP's efforts, especially Alaska.

Respectfully,  
E Sweeney  
IPOPOP, LLC Limited Partner

cc:

- IPOPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am a limited partner with IPOP in the placer gold dredge mining project in Bonanza Channel, and I am quite familiar familiar with the project. I am pleased to show my support for a permit to IPOP to begin mining this season; however, my support doesn't seem to amount to much when it comes to obtaining the permit to mine our claims. This is the purpose of this letter – I am asking for your help with the procurement of the Individual Permit so IPOP can at last mine it's claims after 4 years of arbitrary delays from the USACE.

I am acquainted with many of the other limited partners of IPOP (there are roughly 150 of us). I know they are as honored as I am to be a involved in the recovery of the Alaskan economy and reinventing the process of how minerals are sourced. I have seen IPOP's design and construction of water mining equipment, and it will truly transform the process while setting in motion a new chapter in placer mining. There will be no discharge of chemicals or pollutants, sonar mapping will be used for the reclamation process, leaving the site identical or more enhanced than before, and the equipment quiet enough so as not to exceed wildlife regulations. The IPOP operation is a trailblazer in the departure from dirty mining operations that cause damage to the environment and interference with wildlife.

I support the significance of hearing concerns of the public in this process; unfortunately, the USACE project manager initially assigned to the IPOP project compromised the process with negative, deceitful statements about the project, the company and the partnership. It was the right call to remove her from the project; however, it did not undue the damage.

IPOP and its limited partnership are excited to be a part of the economic recovery this project will bring to the state and local economies. Alaska is hurting and needs recovery. I will personally take great pleasure witnessing the recovery of Alaska, as I do with every state in our nation. I believe the Corps has allowed the negative statements cloud its judgement about this project. I imagine the Corps will have some clean up duty regarding the negative interviews from Leslie Tose in a number of local media outlets. Of course when the partners read the interviews and realized their project manager was working against us, we were justifiably concerned, as it seemed as

though she never had any intention of issuing a permit. I am one of those people who does believe that truth and science prevails over deceit and unsavory agendas.

IPOP has made every attempt to alleviate public comment objections, including meetings with tribal leaders and town hall meetings. There have been a number of interminable delays for the permits to perform the tests being asked of IPOP for coring, vegetation, turbidity and probably many others. IPOP and its partners are not expecting preferential treatment for the remainder of the permitting process, but simply fair, unbiased treatment, as we should receive regardless. I believe the Corps should expedite this process in light of the very unfortunate manner in which IPOP has been treated thus far. When the Corps delves into the history of this project, I am confident they will agree that this process has in fact been unfairly delayed and obstructed by their very own employee. There are a number of regulatory response times violated by the Corps.

The Corps cannot undo what has already been done; however, it can certainly redirect what has not been done, which is issue the permit, and I am hoping you can help with this.

Very sincerely yours,

Genaro S, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I support the IPOP suction dredge mining operation and immediate permit approval, and I am hoping you will agree to help in securing the permits we need in order to commence mining in June, 2021. I am one of approximately 150 limited partners in IPOP, and I have no ownership interest in IPOP LLC.

IPOP has consistently been at long last been issued permits to conduct the very studies and tests, data gathering and analysis required by USACE after it is too late to conduct them, due to weather conditions, time constraint violations committed by USACE - causing in excess of a year delay, whereby IPOP must reapply for the testing permit while USACE slow walks the permit, which causes further delay. IPOP has irrefutably proven with science what has been professed from the beginning: that IPOP has created an environmentally friendly placer mining process for this type of shallow water environment, absent any interference or negative impact to any person, place or thing.

IPOP and its limited partners have all endured opposing opinions and dramatic outbursts based upon assumption, supposition, and outright purposeful deceit. This is understandable from the few who have been fed misinformation of a greedy California Corporation proposing a destructive mining operation in the inland waters of the Bonanza Channel. The intent of this misinformation has clearly been to create fear and resentment of the IPOP operation, as the only factual part of the above statement is the *mining operation in the Bonanza Channel* part, as limited partners reside in California, Nevada, Colorado, Montana, Washington State, Texas, Florida, and various other states throughout the nation. I recognize the "outsiders are not welcome here" attitude as a fear based defense mechanism among many native Alaskans. I even understand the other miners who are simply jealous and resentful. Just as I would not expect anyone to take my opinion as fact at face value, I also expect the regulatory agencies, just as in a court of law, to base their decision upon fact and science.

We have endured the "eelgrass is abundant throughout the channel" argument, which has been proven false with science. USACE is in possession of that study.

We have endured the "plume turbidity from the dredge will irreparably alter fish migration" argument, which has been proven false with the double turbidity curtain IPOP will employ. USACE is in possession of that study.

We have endured the "subsistence hunting and fishing depends on the entire area being unoccupied" argument, which has been proven false with data research of governmental permits issued. USACE is in possession of that study and those government records.

We have endured the “there is no gold in the Bonanza Channel on IPOPOP claims” argument, which has been proven false with IPOPOP’s submission of coring samples (required by USACE) confirming a very large amount of gold on its claims. USACE is in possession of that study.

There are numerous false claims against this project, all of which have been irrefutably disproven by the scientific studies in possession of the Army Corps of Engineers. These opponents making these false claims have proven nothing – not one thing.

It is the job of USACE to analyze the science and the data IPOPOP has provided and proven, and once proven, approve permits to IPOPOP. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> year we have provided additional studies and still have no permit, which is why I am hoping you can help.

Best regards,

George M, IPOPOP LLC Backer

*cc:*

*- IPOPOP, LLC*

*- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law*

*- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP*

*- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am an IPOP supporter and limited partner in the IPOP dredge mining operation. I am writing to you with hope that you can help IPOP secure the Individual Permit to enable us to mine our claims.

I would first like to submit to you my concerns regarding the granting of a mining permit for IPOP.

My first concern is regarding the biased and prejudicial nature in which our permitting request has been handled by USACE.

As you are aware, the President Trump issued an Executive Order which should have granted IPOP the opportunity to mine in the 2020 season. In addition to the President, Governor Dunleavy has made it very clear through his own proclamation that "Alaska is open for business" which includes one of its most precious financial resources, mining.

Despite the financial revenue IPOP will bring to the State of Alaska and to its citizens, the USACE has deliberately and prejudicially delayed and obstructed IPOP's numerous attempts to obtain a number of permits, including but certainly not limited to a mining permit. I use the word "prejudicially" because IPOP has met every demand and request issued by USACE and has still not been granted a mining permit. Therefore; if there is no reason not to grant a permit, I can only presume that our denials of such must be based upon the personal prejudices of the Corps.

USACE has demonstrated her prejudice and bias publicly, using well known media outlets, social media and word of mouth. While USACE continues to delay IPOP's permit, they freely grant permits to others, such as a mineral claim owner mining his claims in the Bonanza Channel positioned at the mouth of the Solomon River. USACE has appeared to be friendly with IPOP's opposition by taking up causes against IPOP and creating adversity from some of the native tribes.

My other concern is regarding the substantial loss of revenue I am not receiving, for which USACE is directly responsible with deliberate attempts to sabotage our efforts to mine and withholding our permit. Our coring samples indicate a significant amount of gold present on IPOP's claims in the

Bonanza Channel. Every day that IPOP is not in the water mining is a substantial loss of revenue to me and the other 150+ limited partners of IPOP. IPOP has paid out millions of dollars on additional testing, scientific studies, wages and incidental expense. Many of these studies and tests are repeats that had already scientifically proven IPOP's assertions. It is also a substantial loss of revenue to the State of Alaska. It is imperative for all parties involved that a mining permit be granted immediately. The failure to do so could bring great harm to the economy and to the citizens of Alaska.

Thank you for reviewing my concerns and for your thoughtful consideration of this letter. I hope that you will see the importance of issuing a mining permit for the 2021 season, especially considering that the price of gold is very high right now. Granting a permit to IPOP allows us to work cooperatively to benefit not only IPOP, but the economy of Nome and every citizen of the great State of Alaska and the country.

Best regards,  
G. Martinez Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOP, LLC
- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law
- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP
- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I support the IPOP mining project and would like to ask for your support and any participation you can offer regarding the permits for IPOP, LLC to dredge for gold in the Bonanza channel.

I do not support projects that bring harm to our environment, as I have seen what irresponsible and unregulated development can do, and am very appreciative of the meticulous oversight and high standards that the Army Corp of Engineers provides in protecting our environment. I do not support or condone an ACE project manager assigned to a project and tasked to approve permits for the project, who works *against* the very project seeking its permits, which is what IPOP has been faced with. It is for this reason that after 4+ years, IPOP has not been granted a permit to mine their claims from the ACE.

Following the Corps and the Alaskan agencies guidance these last 4+ years, I am convinced without question that IPOP has proven that gold mining in the Bonanza channel can in fact coexist with healthy environmental practices, and is in fact, setting the bar for clean mining in the future.

Resources will be extracted; that is a reality. In a time when our country must aspire to becoming less reliant on other countries, such as China, this is the generation of technology and engineering that must become the vanguard for how achieve that goal responsibly.

The timing has never been more critical. The State of Alaska and the City of Nome will directly benefit from this gold mining venture. Due the COVID catastrophe and its devastating impact to travel and tourism, along with the lowering price of oil, there will be long lasting effects on the state and local economies for generations to come. Governor Michael Dunleavy, at the Association of Mineral Exploration British Columbia Roundup 2020, stated "We want the jobs you guys create; we want the wealth that you help create; the governments want revenue that you help create; businesses that support the mining industry want you there."

IPOP is ready, following the issuance of permits, to immediately get to work and start funneling income to the state, in an environmentally responsible fashion. I beseech you to review the data IPOP has supplied at the Corp's request and come to the conclusion that it can do just that, beginning in this mining season of 2021.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Regards, G Sanchez – IPOP LLC Backer

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



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1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 115526  
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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

As an IPOP backer I want to express my support of the IPOP, LLC permit to mine for gold in the Bonanza Channel.

I personally appreciate the oversight and the high standards that the Army Corp of Engineers provides in protecting our environment. And although I suspect there was some non-adherence to Corps guidelines and timelines with our former project manager on the project, I am comfortable with, and indeed welcome, a thorough fact-finding mission to back up approval and issuance of any mining permit.

So I am pleased to finally be in the stage where actual facts and data can be reviewed regarding the efficacy of mining for gold in the Bonanza Channel with no lasting effects on the environment. I believe you will find enough evidence in the submitted reports and studies requested to satisfy the environmental concerns raised by both the public, and officials at the Corps and State Agencies.

As far as economic viability...prospecting for gold is by definition something one hopes is likely to happen. But because IPOP's founders based our claim locations on years of research of past mining operation locations, the study of geologic movement, and predictions of iconic geologist Alfred Brooks, present during the Nome gold rush, the IPOP partnership was formed with the confidence of the "prudent man rule". And now that has been proven with core samples containing what could indicate one of the largest finds on the Seward Peninsula—ALL WITH A DIRECT MONETARY BENEFIT TO ALASKA AND ITS CITIZENS.

I believe IPOP has proven its case as an environmentally sound, highly profitable mining operation with proceeds that will continue to benefit Alaska for decades to come, and in the manner Governor Dunleavy is championing: "The reason why we want you to invest in Alaska is because we believe we protect our environment better than any other place on the planet."

I am requesting facilitation of the issuance of the Individual Permit to IPOP forthwith, to commence mining June 1, 2021

Sincerely,

G. Simpson, IPOP LLC Backer

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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**Attorney General Treg R. Taylor**  
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**Commissioner Corri A. Feige**  
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**Kip Knudsen**  
State and Federal Relations  
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**Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang**  
Department of Fish and Game  
1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am a limited partner in the IPOP dredge mining project in the Bonanza Channel. Needless to state, I fully support the granting of permits for this project. But lest you think my support is entirely self-serving, let me extoll upon the virtues of this project.

IPOP, how do I love thee? Let me count the ways.

1. There is a large amount of gold present in the sands of the Bonanza Channel. IPOP presents supporting evidence for this in the permit application. Many of the partners believe these sands could be as rich as the sands of the Nome beaches during the 1898 gold rush. This will provide royalties and taxes to Alaska and income taxes to the federal government.
2. These inland waters are partially utilized by people in the area for subsistence uses such as hunting and fishing. IPOP estimates that the dredge can process sands from 10 to 20 acres per season. The total area of these inland waters is roughly 15,000 acres. IPOP's footprint is negligible a tenth of a percent or less).
3. IPOP's processing method is environmentally friendly. No chemicals are introduced. Gravity is used to separate the gold from the gravel and sands. The bottom profile will be largely restored by using sonar and computer mapping.
4. IPOP will create roughly two dozen good paying jobs. IPOP uses very rigorous hiring practices. IPOP has a zero-tolerance policy regarding alcohol, tobacco, and drugs.
5. IPOP has shown there is almost no eelgrass present on our claims. An extensive survey of the area revealed less than 1 acre of eelgrass in 600 acres.
6. CoVid-19 has severely affected the nation's economy at the local, state, and national level. It is essential for private enterprise to lead the recovery by creating jobs and opportunities wherever possible. President Trump issued an Executive Order directing federal agencies to expedite this process where possible, and to my knowledge this one has not been overturned.

I believe that the merits of this project vastly outweigh the demerits. Therefore, the Individual Permit should be issued as soon as possible. Please support the permit issuance.

Best Regards,  
G Twilla Bledsoe IPOP LLC Backer

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

As you may be aware by now, that IPOP has been faced with opposition with regard to the project area interfering with Native Alaskan subsistence hunting, fishing, berry picking, birdwatching, etc.

I would like to address some of the objections:

1. Fiction: The State of Alaska sold IPOP claims that are invalid.  
Fact: IPOP and its partners do not believe the State sold invalid claims. If the USACE considers this valid, the state would be on the hook to IPOP for millions. Not only would the state be required to reimburse IPOP for the claims, they would have to reimburse IPOP for every dollar spent on the project thus far. This would include but not be limited to equipment, scientific studies, tests, wages, travel, legal fees, lobbyist fees, permit representative fees, and every expenditure incurred on this project from the date of acquisition of the claims.
2. Fiction: Not enough gold on the claims to mine.  
Fact: As you know, this is not only *not factual*, it's irrelevant.
3. Fiction: IPOP will harm the environment.  
Fact: Unlike other operations, IPOP does not add chemicals to the water, it uses gravity to separate gold from sand and gravel, as gold is heavier.
4. Fiction: IPOP will negatively impact the economy.  
Fact: IPOP will boost the economy of Nome like it hasn't seen in over two centuries. Not only will a 3% royalty go directly to Alaska, IPOP will pay local, state and federal taxes. IPOP will purchase goods and services from local businesses, boosting local commerce. IPOP partners will visit the area and stay in hotels, eat at restaurants, etc.
5. Fiction: IPOP has never reached out to locals or native tribes.  
Fact: Untrue, and IPOP has documented evidence to refute this. On at least 3 occasions IPOP has requested meetings with locals and native tribes, to avail. IPOP

issued a request to USACE, asking the agency to host a public meeting to accurately present the operation in hopes of assuaging some fears and resolve some inaccurate perceptions. The response was ignored by the project manager. IPOPOP did in fact meet with a native tribe leader, who abruptly left the meeting without explanation after 20 minutes. Additionally, IPOPOP hosted a town hall meeting.

6. Fiction: Endangered species habitats are on IPOPOP claims.
7. Fact: The endangered species near IPOPOP claims are predominantly denizens of the Bering Sea, and habituate bear on or near ice bergs and lakes. In the last 5 years, the IPOPOP crew has never spotted any of the species listed, nor have they seen a single person subsistence hunting. Polar Bears are listed as one of the endangered species (by Leslie Tose in a media interview) and to my knowledge, polar bears don't tend to bask in the water during the summer.
8. Fiction: Locals and natives tribal members use IPOPOP claims for subsistence hunting and feeding their families.  
Fact: On November 2, 2019, IPOPOP submitted available lists of Tier 1 and Tier 2 subsistence harvest permits which clearly demonstrate no recipients likely utilize the Bonanza Channel.

IPOPOP requested that the USACE arrange a meeting of IPOPOP representatives and tribal and local opponents to participate in a civilized discussion about measures that may be taken to address their concerns, and asked the USACE to engage an unbiased, well informed independent facilitator to enable the parties to generate solutions to mitigate any viable, chronic impacts. USACE ignored the request and IPOPOP believes that the request was never communicated to the tribal members. This presumption is based on numerous claims from tribal members and locals who are of the belief that IPOPOP doesn't care about their concerns. Effectively, USACE interfered with a potential amiable relationship between IPOPOP and the native tribes.

I appreciate your consideration of these facts.

Truly,

G. W. Wong, IPOPOP LLC Backer

cc:

- IPOPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I support the permits for the IPOP placer dredge mining operation and I am hoping you can support the issuance of a permit for this project. Citizens of not only Alaska, but the entire United States are in an economic crisis from the effects of a crazy pandemic that charged in and shut our nation down. The country, including Alaska, need recovery, not more oppression.

IPOP will ignite the recovery of Alaska's economy. The mining company has proven itself to be friendly to the environment, and that it doesn't hurt any person, place or thing. The USACE has the 275 permit application, the core gold sample, and the scientific findings, the studies proving all of it.

I'm aware of the local and native tribe opposition. It is a dishonorable betrayal to this country to try to stop a safe, environmentally friendly project won't that interfere with anybody's life or business. The native tribes are sovereign nations and do not have the authority they seem to think they do. Would the USACE allow China to come waltzing in and stop a project just because they don't like it? In truth, China *wouldn't* like it because we wouldn't have to keep relying upon them for buying minerals. So you must ask yourself why the native tribes are so mad about it. It sure isn't because of the animals or the environment.

Thank you,  
H Brown, IPOP LLC Backer

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Congressman Don Young  
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Dear Commissioner Brune,

I thank you so much for taking time to reading this letter. I am an IPOP limited partner, but please don't allow that to dissuade you from the validity of my concerns and plea for help and support in the approval of the Individual Permit to mine our claims in the Bonanza Channel.

I am of course pro-IPOP and pro-permit in favor of IPOP. I am also pro-America and pro-Alaska as the 49<sup>th</sup> state of the union. I am pro-Americans and pro-Constitutional rights, both State and United States - that is after all, the very thing uniting us.

I am very aware of vocal opposition to the project; however, vocal opposition does not bolster the economy, feed families, pay taxes or yield income for the state of Alaska through its royalty and mining tax.

As Governor Dunleavy articulated last year in his Op-Ed in The Hill:

*"The simple truth is that for every project of Alaska unceremoniously canceled by mob rule, those natural resources in question will continue to be sourced from foreign suppliers that generate harmful pollution and human suffering".*

I am in absolute concurrence with the Governor on this. We need to take care our country and its citizens first, not foreign suppliers that bring harm to our nation.

IPOP is cognizant of the vocal opposition to the proposed project; however, those individuals do not possess an understanding of IPOP's commitment to the environment of the Bonanza Channel and to the financial future of Nome and Alaska. **IPOP did not apply for a permit in Safety Sound** and referencing it is dishonest at worst and spurious at best. This must be renounced to allow people to have a voice. **Any and all objections based upon untrue statements must be discarded and certainly not taken into consideration or counted as opposition.**

I appreciate and agree with the process, due diligence or commitment to scrutinizing any project for environmental and economic impact. Due diligence entails taking *reasonable* steps to satisfy a legal requirement, or a comprehensive appraisal of an undertaking to establish its assets and liabilities to evaluate its potential.

The primary liability with the IPOP project has been the USACE and the opposition to this project. After a very *unreasonable* period of time, IPOP was at last permitted to conduct much awaited testing and surveys to satisfy every concern raised over the last 4 plus years in multifarious public comment periods, which have been determined scientifically unfounded. This is an integral fact that should be publicized. The only thing that continues to be publicized are the hysterical rantings of the opposition who are not getting what they want, which is to stop IPOP. IPOP has provided everything asked of them and required of them to the USACE (and every other agency as well), yet after 4 years is still without a permit to mine their claims. A mining permit should never take over 4 years. That alone should raise some red flags about the USACE.

As agents of the USACE operating in accordance with this guideline, placing “*special emphasis on the persistence and permanence of the effects outlined in those subparts in evaluating a permit application*” the USACE is duty bound to concur that IPOP has fulfilled the requested requirements and provided scientific data that incontestably proves there is no *persistence and permanence* in the effects of IPOP’s operation. Anything less than that is not providing help to Alaska and its citizens, it is injurious to them, which could be interpreted as gross negligence or dereliction of duty.

IPOP is backed by science. Opposition has absolutely nothing to back or verify their assertions, yet USACE continues to pander to the unverifiable emotional outbursts and ignore the science supporting the IPOP project.

I very much appreciate any support or help you can offer with our permitting issue.

Sincerely,

H Gutierrez, IPOP Backer

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am a backer of the IPOP suction dredge mining project and would like to ask for your help in the procurement of approval and issuance of a permit to mine our claims in the Bonanza Channel.

I have a concern about the biased and prejudicial nature in which this permitting request has been handled by the USACE. IPOP has been delayed and obstructed with repeated tests and studies costing the company millions and still have no permit.

Despite the financial revenue IPOP will bring to the State of Alaska and to its citizens, USACE has deliberately and prejudicially delayed and obstructed IPOP's numerous attempts to obtain a number of permits, including but certainly not limited to a mining permit. I use the word "prejudicially" because IPOP has met every demand and request issued by USACE and has still not been granted a mining permit. Therefore; if there is no reason not to grant a permit, I can only presume that our denials of such must be based upon the personal prejudices of USACE.

The USACE has demonstrated prejudice and bias publicly, using well known media outlets, social media and word of mouth. While USACE continues to deny IPOP's permit, IPOP's (now former) project manager freely grants permits to personal friends, such as a mineral claim owner mining his claims in the Bonanza Channel positioned at the mouth of the Solomon River. USACE has shown themselves to be a friend of the opposition by taking up causes against IPOP and creating adversity from some of the native tribes.

My other concern is regarding the substantial loss of revenue I am not receiving, for which USACE is directly responsible with deliberate attempts to sabotage our efforts to mine and withholding our permit. Our coring samples indicate a significant amount of gold present on IPOP's claims in the Bonanza Channel. Every day that IPOP is not in the water mining is a substantial loss of revenue to me and the partners of IPOP. IPOP has paid out millions of dollars on additional testing, scientific studies, wages and incidental expense. Many of these studies and tests are repeats that had already scientifically proven IPOP's assertions. Every additional and repeated scientific study costs IPOP thousands of dollars. It is also a substantial loss of revenue to the State of Alaska, as IPOP's 3% royalty partner, not to mention commerce, taxes, tourism, etc. It is imperative for all parties involved that a mining permit be granted immediately. The failure to do so could bring great harm to the economy and to the citizens of Alaska.

As you aware, the 45th President of the United States issued an Executive Order on June 4, 2020 which should have granted IPOP the opportunity to mine in the 2020 season. It is now 2021 and we still aren't mining because we still don't have a permit. In addition to the President, the Governor of Alaska has made it very clear through his own statement that "Alaska is open for business" which includes one of its most precious financial resources, mining.



Thank you for hearing my concerns and for your thoughtful consideration of this letter. Please help us if you can.

Sincerely,

H. Wong, IPOP LLC Backer

*cc:*

*- IPOP, LLC*

*- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law*

*- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP*

*- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

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Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am writing to you about a serious issues with permits for the IPOP dredge mining project in the Bonanza Channel. I am a limited partner in the IPOP, LLC mining project and we have actually heard the following proclamations:

*"Nobody wants IPOP or their gold mining project here, they need to go back to California and stay away from Nome"* If this were true, how do they explain the letter of support written by the Nome Chamber of Commerce? How do they explain a survey conducted in the Nome Nugget, the results of which completely refutes their proclamation with, as of today, 09/24/2020, **247 votes for IPOP and only 6 votes against IPOP?**

(Evidentiary copy included as attachment)

- Please note that there are approximately 150 limited partners in IPOP and there was no possibility of submitting more than 1 (One) vote per household. Additionally, most of the limited partners were unaware of this survey until after it expired, unless they just gapped to be reading the Nome Nugget at the time, and I only know of 3 partners who read the Nome Nugget. 92% in favor is an evident portrayal of how the Nome community feels about the project.

*"There is no gold in the Bonanza Channel."* If this were true, how do they explain the massive gold find IPOP has discovered on its claims? How do they explain the article published in the AMA magazine actually stating the gold discovery, proven with IPOP's submitted core samples, as "massive"?

*"Eelgrass beds cover the Channel and provide habitat."* If this were true, how do they explain IPOP's scientific findings of only one patch containing less than one acre of eelgrass out of 600 acres equating to one tenth of one percent?

*"The dredge will spew a plume high into the air and blot out visibility for fish."* If this were true, how do they explain IPOP's submitted, irrefutable evidence that the double turbidity curtain completely contains all plume within the curtain? How do they explain away no turbidity issues without *any* curtain?

- *Initial turbidity study concluded no significant turbidity caused due to extremely low current (0.5 mph) Turbidity curtain required by USACE “to be sure” – IPOP complied. Test results indicated no turbidity caused. Then a larger turbidity curtain required by USACE because project manager wasn’t convinced by science – IPOP complied. Test results indicated no turbidity caused. Then a second turbidity curtain to surround the large curtain they had just purchased) offered by IPOP because project manager still wasn’t convinced by science. IPOP will now employ a second curtain to surround the second curtain IPOP purchased. IPOP purchased 3 turbidity curtains, even though none were needed – just required by USACE. USACE mandated testing for each curtain and required permits for each test.*

*“The equipment will be deafening and disturb wildlife.”* If this were true, how do they explain the tested state-of-art Sound equipment that fully and irrefutably confirms the noise level is no louder than what is heard from the road near the barrier islands?

*“The bottom of the channel will be irreversible routed out and damaged.”* If this were true, how do they explain the scientific studies submitted, proving that with sonar mapping utilization for reclamation the floor will be restored to pristine condition?

- *Weather has more impact on the floor than IPOP does.*

*“The entire area is heavily used for subsistence hunting and fishing.”* If this were true, how do they explain the permit records proving 0-6 total subsistence permits issued for the area? These statements are irrefutably false, proven in previously submitted application information and in the recent submission of environmental studies.

- 0 (Zero) were in, on or around IPOP claims, the 6 (Six) were in Nome

In reality, these objections do not outweigh IPOP’s data, science, studies and evidence submitted to the Army Corps of Engineers.

I am making a formal request that IPOP be issued the Individual Permit to mine its claims. USACE has reviewed the science and data IPOP has submitted. Every test and study concludes a safe, clean mining operation, causing no harm or interference with any person, place or thing. I insist that incontrovertible science take precedence over fraudulent, unprovable accusations, and permits be issued forthwith. IPOP is ready to get to work and begin streaming income to the state on June 1, 2021.

Thank you for fair consideration and any assistance you can give.

Very truly yours,

JA Workman

*(See attachment on following page)*

cc:

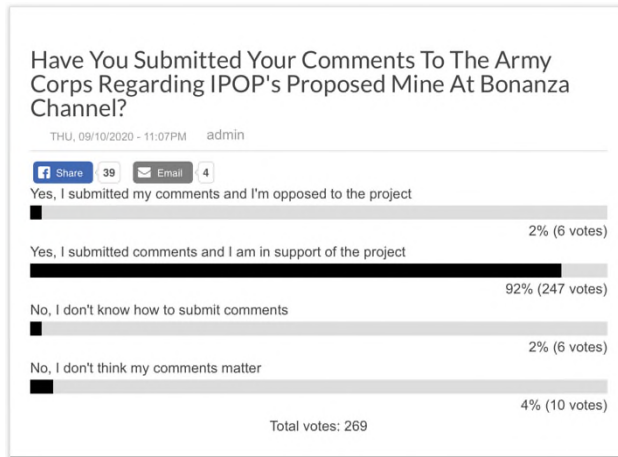
- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

## Attachment: Final Numbers September 24, 2020



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Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I'm a proud backer of IPOP and happy to have this opportunity to declare my support in the decision to move forward with the issuances of all permits. IPOP is shovel-ready to begin mining this season. With the record late freezes in the recent years, there is time for Alaska to immediately begin receiving revenue and have a proven SAFE, CLEAN resource to build into next years' budget.

I am a proud limited partner of IPOP because we are changing the way minerals are being sourced. IPOP's design and construction of state of the art shallow water mining equipment begins a new phase in placer mining. No chemicals or pollutants discharged; sonar mapping for a reclamation process that leaves the site the same or more enhanced from the benefits of dredging than before; and equipment quiet enough to not exceed wildlife regulations...these characteristics of the IPOP operation allows the US to begin moving away from relying heavily on dirty mining operations that damage the environment or abuse human rights.

I understand objections to this project contain many opinions and emotions and you must sort out fact from fiction. I am not speaking informed by hopes and wishes but from the science and data collected and presented to you.

I am also proud that the IPOP operation will bring *immediate* benefits to the state and local economy. Royalty tax on mining proceeds will shore up the state's budget shortage *now* and allow for incoming tax revenues to be added to upcoming budget proposals.

IPOP has complied with any requests to alleviate public concerns. Over the last 4 years, many times along the way we have been interminably delayed for the permits to simply perform the tests being asked of us, (coring, vegetation and turbidity) for example. We were not looking to unfairly rush the rest of the permitting process, but I certainly hope that you will take a look at the history and agree that this process from our perspective has been unfairly delayed.

Yet another extended comment period has been accommodated, placing IPOP's permit in a serious time crunch. We have asked the USACE to accept the data and leave the unsubstantiated opinions behind, conclude that IPOP has proven to be a responsible, clean operation and issue mining permits for 2021. We also asked the USACE for that in 2018, 2019 and 2020.

Sincerely,  
J Bledsoe, IPOP LLC Backer

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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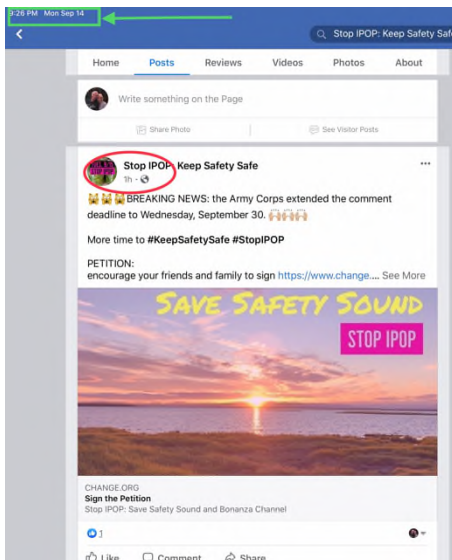
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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

I am one of about 150 limited partners with and in favor of a permit for IPOP to mine their claims. I am expressing my unwavering support for the IPOP project and for the issuance of permits to allow mining and asking for yo-yo support and perhaps even assistance. I maintain that IPOP has proven itself to be a tremendous asset for Alaska and for Nome. I assert that the IPOP permit has irrefutably been unfairly compromised by its former USACE project manager, who was in charge of IPOP's permit approval for the first 4-5 years. I do not make such assertions without supporting evidence, which I do possess.

As this was all under the USACE, the agency is ultimately responsible for her actions and I refer to these offenses as having been committed by the Corps. The Corps has been on a crusade against IPOP for at least two years. The Corps has lied to the Native Tribes and local community through social media, multiple KNOM and Nome Nugget interviews about the IPOP project, creating dissension, unfounded fear and even hatred with this deceptive manifesto. The Corps has either initiated or is at the very least participating with Kawarek Inc. in a Facebook campaign encouraging negative public comment submissions, even going so far as to give them specific verbiage and issues to oppose. This isn't simply a serious conflict of interest, it is highly dishonest and unethical. On more than one occasion the Corps has misinformed them that IPOP applied to mine the Safety Sound; the permit application is specifically for the Bonanza Channel. The Corps has convinced people that IPOP will obviate subsistence hunting and fishing, which IPOP has proven to be untrue. The Corps has persuaded them to believe that IPOP will destroy the land and cause great harm to the environment. The Corps has reviewed the tests and studies disproving that objection; therefore, is willfully lying to whomever will listen. Kawarek was demanding an extension on the 2020 public comment phase of IPOP's permit approval process and were somehow of the opinion they were likely to get it. And they did, compliments of the Corps. On September 14, 2020 Kawarek seemed to know ahead of any official statement that yet another extension had been granted by USACE (See below

POSTED 9/14/20



USACE should have pulled this project manager from the IPOP project years ago, for conflict of interest, but they didn't. This has caused serious harm to IPOP, IPOP partners, Alaska, Nome, and the country with the dishonest, unethical behavior, which hasn't stopped just because she is no longer on the project. I am aware of the Standards of Ethics USACE and its employees are obligated to follow, yet she has unabashedly violated several ethical standards and continues to do so under the USACE.

The Native Tribes are controlling State land and waters by falsely claiming to use IPOP claims for subsistence. Everyone in the area knows this is untrue, yet they are being accommodated by the USACE. They are supported by the Corps employee who is using USACE resources for unfair practices against IPOP. They are asking for pictures of subsistence activity to be submitted as public comment. One picture was posted displaying a 25 pound halibut allegedly caught on IPOP claims in about 18 inches of water. If this were not so crucial, it would be laughable. Halibut swim in deep seas, not shallow rivers. Another picture simply shows a nest with eggs in it, that could have been taken anywhere, and proves nothing.

On June 4, 2020 President Trump ordered all federal agencies to step up and expedite projects that can help the nation during this global pandemic and IPOP is ready to participate. I do not consider a 60 day public comment period expeditious. That is an additional 60 days and perhaps another season that IPOP has been obstructed from mining. I cannot find any reason whatsoever to continue to impede the issuance of a permit to IPOP.

I ask you to please help in any way you can for the issuance of the Individual Permit to IPOP to mine. We are at a crucial segment of this permitting process and the only thing for USACE to do at this juncture is to issue the permit; although, based upon this project history I have no expectation of a permit this year or ever.

Best Regards,

J. B. Patton, IPOP LLC Limited Partner

cc:

- IPOP, LLC
- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law
- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP
- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



**Governor Mike Dunleavy**  
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Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am familiar with IPOP's project, as a limited partner I ask you to give assistance in the issuance of IPOP the permits needed to begin dredging in the Bonanza Channel. This project can produce tremendous benefits for Nome and for the entire State of Alaska. This is especially important due to the ongoing economic crisis. IPOP can create jobs, can pay taxes and produce wealth.

The various partners are all very serious individuals. We are all accredited investors with an aggregate net worth of well over \$500 million. We possess the finances to make this project a success. In addition, the partners have a vast amount of knowledge and experience that is applicable to this project. We are law-abiding citizens, tax payers and job creators with the means to make this project succeed. Allow IPOP to demonstrate what an asset it can be for Alaska.

There is a large amount of gold present in the sands of the Bonanza Channel. IPOP has presented supporting evidence in the permit application. Many of the partners believe these sands could be as rich as the sands of the Nome beaches during the 1898 gold rush. This will provide royalties and taxes to Alaska and income taxes to the federal government. The partners conservatively estimate that IPOP can produce in excess of 100,000 troy ounces of gold per season.

IPOP will have a small footprint in the area. Calculations estimate that the dredge can process the sands from roughly 20 acres per mining season. This is a very small portion of the 15,000 acres contained within the Safety Sound & Bonanza Channel area. There will be no effect upon the use of the area for subsistence. In addition, we expect to return the bottom profile to its original condition or better, using sonar and computer mapping. IPOP will not cause lasting harm to the environment and will not add any chemicals to the water. Gravity alone is used to separate gold from sand. A double turbidity curtain will be used to enclose completely the area being dredged. No fish, birds, or animals will be harmed. All of the equipment to be used has the best sound reduction currently available.

IPOP employs very rigorous hiring standards with a zero-tolerance policy towards drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. All potential employees are given a criminal background check. Several IPOP employees are veterans. IPOP employees will not cause any problems with the local citizens. IPOP estimates that this project will create two dozen high paying seasonal jobs.

Several false objections have been raised against this project, generated by a few Native Tribes and unfortunately, by USACE itself. It has been claimed that there is eelgrass present in the area we wish to dredge. This is false. IPOP employed a marine biologist to conduct an extensive survey of the area. In roughly 600 acres surveyed, he found one patch of eelgrass that measured roughly 200' by 200'. That is less than one acre. It has also been claimed that dredging will create a turbidity plume that will prevent fish from reaching their spawning areas. This is also false. There is nearly no current in this area of the channel. The measured the value of the current is less than 0.5 mph. In addition, IPOP has agreed to utilize a turbidity curtain to contain turbidity. This has been tested this and shown that it works perfectly. Turbidity is a non-issue. It has been claimed that IPOP will interfere with subsistence fishing and hunting, and other activities such as birdwatching and berry picking. This is not only false, but these fears are based on the lies they have been told by The aforementioned. These are not accusations, they are statements of fact and completely verifiable.

IPOP has listened to the objections to this project and has addressed these concerns with testing and scientifically supported data. Concerns regarding turbidity, eelgrass, noise, subsistence, etc. have all been identified and shown to be either false or minor.

The CoVid-19 crisis has taken a toll on tax revenues and placed much greater demand on government funding for various programs and subsidies. This is a disaster waiting to happen. These trends can only be stopped by individuals and companies stepping forward with new sources of revenue. IPOP can help with this.

I am confident the Corps should grant the permits that IPOP needs to begin mining. The risks appear to me to be minor, or even nonexistent and the benefits could be very large. In my opinion, it is worth giving IPOP a chance. Thank you again for the opportunity to reach out to you for help.

Respectfully,

J Crowell, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I would like to express my support for IPOP and this project to mine placer gold from the Bonanza Channel. I am one of the many limited partners in this project and I support the issuance of all necessary permits.

This project is very benign in my opinion. I see very little risk to the local environment. The proposed operation will only involve dredging sand and water, removing the gold, and returning the sand and water to the place from which it was removed. No chemicals will be used in the processing of the gold.

A double turbidity curtain will be used to enclose completely the area being dredged. No fish, birds, or animals will be harmed. Turbidity curtains are approved for use by the Corps and by the EPA in other locations. All of the equipment to be used has the best sound reduction currently available. We expect that one dredge will mine 10 to 20 acres in a season. This is a tiny fraction of the entire Safety Sound / Bonanza Channel area.

It has been stated that this area is used for subsistence hunting and fishing. I will not dispute this, but I will argue that the area that we will dredge per season is very small and that our effect upon any wildlife in the area will also be small. Also, the effects of weather will erase our actions in a few seasons.

This project will produce gold in very significant amounts. Using conservative estimates, IPOP believes that it can produce well over 100,000 troy ounces of gold per season. Alaska will receive 3% of this as royalties. This will go far to solve Alaska's present budget shortfall. The IPOP partners will pay income taxes to the US Treasury on their portion of the income. This could be \$50 million per year or more for the federal government. Nome will receive sales taxes and tourism from the partners, and local businesses will benefit from selling fuel and supplies to IPOP.

Alaska must develop its resources to create jobs and to produce wealth and support the local, state, and federal governments. It is not feasible for everyone to receive government assistance.

Someone must produce goods and services. IPOP stands ready to do its part to support these entities and the economy as a whole.

These inland waters are the property of the State of Alaska. IPOP has lawfully leased these inland waters from the State of Alaska for the purpose of mining. The economy is teetering on the brink of recession due to the CoVid-19 crisis. Someone has to pay taxes to pay for all the programs that people demand and someone must create jobs for those who seek work. IPOP is ready, willing, and able to accept risks and to take meaningful action to benefit the nation. IPOP's employees are carefully screened and IPOP practices strict on-site rules and regulations.

We are lawful and responsible citizens, and we will fully comply with the terms of the permit and all applicable laws. IPOP can create jobs and produce revenue for Alaska and for the federal government. I urge you to help facilitate the issuance of the Individual Permit to IPOP to commence mining this season on June 1, 2021

Sincerely,  
J D'Esopo, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune,

As a limited partner in the IPOP dredge mining project, I want to ask for your support and assistance in obtaining a permit for IPOP to mine its claims in the Bonanza Channel beginning this season in June 2021.

USACE has repeatedly been given the commitment that IPOP will honor and adhere to the standards expected of all miners in Alaska and the United States of America. This is evidenced by the necessary and unnecessary mandates that IPOP has been required to accomplish by USACE, even in direct violation of a presidential executive order. The IPOP legal team thoroughly reviewed the most recent Permit Application prior to submittal in 2020 and emphatically believed that the USACE would thoroughly examine and approve IPOP's pending operations. IPOP is fully compliant with all mandates, including the peremptory mandates issued by USACE which are distinctly non-compliant with the current presidential order mentioned above. Clearly, no approval has been granted from USACE, as IPOP is still without a permit to mine its claims after 4 years of this.

Millions of dollars have been invested in Nome, with some very large charitable contributions to Nome groups and residents as well. The objections from Nome citizens to our project notwithstanding, have not felt committed enough to return the money IPOP has contributed, but conversely energetically received it. IPOP is an altruistic group with proof of its generosity to the community. IPOP is also supported by the Chamber of Commerce, who is supportive of this project. IPOP has already paid close to hundreds of thousands of dollars to local native tribe members for their assistance in upcoming operations. IPOP will pay much more to many others in the future, once mining operations commence.

IPOP owns Alaska state mining claims and has indisputable constitutional rights to mine them. IPOP has proven that there is abundant gold on its claims on the Seward Peninsula and will press forward mine these claims, as our mining rights are evident. This is well known not only to IPOP, but all agencies, (including USACE) involved with issuance of the permits we seek as well. IPOP has complied with mitigating effects on the environment each and every time it has been demanded. Alaska is cognizant of the millions of dollars of natural resource wealth for the State in its waters.

Alaska has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 disaster. President Donald J. Trump wanted us to mine, to facilitate the economic recovery of Alaska, as evidenced by his presidential order in June of last year. Governor Michael J. Dunleavy wants us to mine, to facilitate the economic recovery of Alaska, as evidenced by his statement 4 years ago and again in June of last year, that Alaska is open for business, come to Alaska and mine. It is evident to all, that Alaska needs the 3% royalty from IPOP.

I respectfully request your support and assistance in the procurement of the Permit to IPOP to mine its claims. Thank you.

J Eckis  
IPOP Limited Partner

cc:  
- IPOP, LLC  
- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law  
- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP  
- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
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Dear Commissioner Brune

I am a limited partner in IPOP, I support IPOP and am appreciative of this opportunity to contribute to the economic recovery of Alaska. This letter is a request for assistance in the approval and issuance of the required permits to mine our legally purchased claims in the Bonanza Channel.

I researched this IPOP suction dredge mining project and proposal to mine its claims in the Bonanza Channel for about 2 years prior to becoming a limited partner. I have always been interested in gold mining and I'm a frequent visitor of Alaska. I had a particular interest in whether or not IPOP would find gold and if so, how much. I was also interested in the potential environmental impact, economic benefit to Alaska and the country as a whole, and what the locals had to say. I must admit, I did not anticipate that the only opposition would appear to be confined to some Native Tribes and IPOP's Project Manager at ACE. I did not believe it was appropriate for their own project manager to work against them while possessing the power to withhold their permit for personal reasons - I have never known of *any* government agency to do anything like that. I couldn't find any negative comments from the State agencies, only the ACE, which was of interest to me; however, I did not allow it to dissuade me.

I learned that IPOP claims are on State land only, not Federal or Native. I appreciate the process but I don't think IPOP's own ACE project manager should be out to get them and be stabbing them in the back - but she undeniably has an issue with both the company and the project. She made it clear that her intent is to see (or cause) the failure of IPOP and this project. It seemed to me that Alaskans would want the opposite, given the economic disaster the state is experiencing.

Alaska desperately needs financial assistance; meanwhile, this project manager was playing hardball to make certain IPOP knows who's in charge. I am obviously aware that she was removed from the project and a senior project manager is now "the one in charge". Speaking of who's in charge, I believe that would be Governor Dunleavy who has full authority over the state, and I can't imagine he would have been very happy to know that IPOP's former project manager has been hindering a project for over 3 years that would help get Alaska back in business. Alaska received \$1.5 billion just last year, while the ACE was and is telling a mining project they can't mine because it might create a plume, disturb a minuscule patch of eelgrass, the ringed seals might need to use the claims, and it could upset the Native Tribes who won't be affected in any way whatsoever.

I think the Native Tribes making a fuss about this are well outside their boundaries. The PN specifically stated that Native Tribes have a protocol to follow to even be allowed to participate in the public comment, one of them being *significantly affected* by the project. They aren't affected at all, let alone *significantly*. Native Tribes are sovereign nations who can do just about anything they want without interference from the State. That gate needs to swing both ways. While the ACE panders to these fabricated complaints, Americans are struggling to get by, IPOP and its partners – an American Corporation with American partners – are losing millions, Alaska is losing millions, the federal and state governments are losing millions

IPOP has scientifically proven every objection to be false. I am also aware of the pathetic appeals the Native Tribes are making to stop IPOP, using any made up story they can think of, in hopes that the ACE will fall for at least one of them and indeed, stop IPOP. This is probably why Alaska is failing. The Alaska population seems to be more concerned about making some native tribes mad than they do about human suffering and their own economy. If a wild animal has to move, literally nobody, including the animal, is going to suffer. Wild animals adapt to their environment, they don't wait for the environment to adapt to them. We should care more about the humans who have to move because they can't pay their mortgage, rent, or utilities. Animals don't have to pay for their habitat, utilities, food, taxes, clothing, doctor bills, transportation, or basic essentials. These people are complaining about the poor animals being inconvenienced, and at the same time they're complaining they won't be able to go out and kill them because of IPOP. Certainty I can't be the only one who sees the hypocrisy of this.

This project will save Alaska. It may take a few years, but recovery has to start somewhere. IPOP will throw millions into the economy, without consequence to environment or anything/anyone else. It is for the reasons contained within this letter that I am in favor of permitting this project and am asking for your help in accomplishing this.

Kindly,

J. Hancock Limited Partner IPOP LLC

---

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am a limited partner on the IPOPOP dredge mining operation and I am asking for both your support and help with IPOPOP's mining permit. IPOPOP has spent the last 4 years attempting to secure the permit and we're still fighting for it. I ask you to read the body of this letter so you can make an informed decision as to whether or not you can offer your support and/or help.

Over the past 3 years in this endeavor I have acquired a great deal of knowledge about the IPOPOP mining project, Nome, the Bonanza Channel, Alaska and its economy.

The IPOPOP dredge mining project has zero environmental impact and fiscally will make millions, or more likely billions for the State of Alaska, the residents of Nome, Citizens of the United States and the Federal government. Both Federal and State governments and the state of Alaska need environmentally friendly projects such as IPOPOP immediately working, considering the economic crisis and the mineral and precious metals shortage this country faces. The scientific findings IPOPOP has submitted to the Corps indisputably confirms that the IPOPOP project should be permitted forthwith and without further delay. A decision to deny or forestall the issuance of this permit would have to be validated with science - which is simply not feasible. In other words, there is not a valid reason to withhold a permit to IPOPOP any longer.

In the decision for a permit, the Corps must consider the lack of inhabitants, fish and vegetation in the Bonanza Channel where IPOPOP intends to dredge. IPOPOP has performed the most in-depth studies and mapping research projects ever performed in the Bonanza Channel in its history. IPOPOP's comprehensive, detailed studies of the area, fish and vegetation have incontestably revealed that there is little to none there.

Dissimilar to unsupported statements and assertions by combatant parties about what is purportedly in and around IPOPOP claims in the Bonanza Channel via rumor mill and Facebook, IPOPOP can state with conviction what exists in and around the areas of the Bonanza Channel that IPOPOP intends to dredge. IPOPOP doesn't surmise what exists in and around its claims, IPOPOP determines with certitude and verification; comprehensive observation, studies and mapping has taken IPOPOP years to conduct.

As for the untrue assertion that IPOPOP claims are regularly used for subsistence to feed families, over the last 5 years there have been absolutely no people seen in the areas that IPOPOP intends to dredge. This is not a top-flight renowned salmon fishing spot like Bristol Bay. This assertion is nothing more than grasping at straws in a feeble attempt to put an end to IPOPOP.

The state of Alaska has always intended for the Bonanza Channel to be mined for its mineral resources. This is obvious by the fact that Alaska leased these claims to be mined and wants to benefit from the development of its resources. It's blatantly evident that if Alaska leases state land for the specific purpose of mining, then that activity



should be permitted on those state lands. This isn't a con game contrived by the state to pad the budget. This is a state land claim lease sale for the sole and specific purpose of mining. Alaska sold the leases for these claims to IPOPOP, to be mined by IPOPOP, therefore, IPOPOP should be permitted to mine with little to no difficulty.

The message from the Federal government and the leader of the free world could not have been more apparent; mining projects such as IPOPOP's need to be permitted immediately, given the economic effects from the Covid crisis. President Donald Trump signed and enacted an executive order on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (which to my knowledge has not been overturned) to speed up the federal permitting process for infrastructure projects such as new mines waiting for years to obtain a permit to commence mining for the benefit of not only themselves, but in Alaska, for the benefit of the state as well. President Donald Trump's executive order *required* IPOPOP's project to be permitted immediately in order to boost the economy. The executive order does not contain a provision for people who might not like it and get mad. The executive order doesn't contain a provision to capitulate to Native Tribes who object to this type of operation just because it isn't on their land. IPOPOP's project is precisely the type of project that the executive order foreshadowed.

The executive order designated, "Accelerating the Nation's Economic Recovery from the COVID-19 Emergency by Expediting Infrastructure Investments and Other Activities," directs the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to expedite the permitting processes required under the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act. The executive order declared an economic emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which allows the White House to bypass traditional dictatorial, obsolescent regulatory requirements imposed under current laws. Undeniably, IPOPOP is the quintessence of a mining project required to be immediately permitted, as it will make millions or even billions for Nome, Alaska and the United States of America with no environmental impact.

In a very recent article written by Governor Michael Dunleavy, he advocates for supporting the development of Alaska's resources in connection with projects such as IPOPOP. He states, "*Denying Alaska the ability to develop our natural resources certainly flies in the face of our rights. As a state whose admittance into the union was predicated on our ability to develop natural resources for the benefits of our people and our country, a future viability of Alaska has been thrown into question in only a few short decades after misled activism*". While the Governor advocates for the development of Alaska resources, the Army Corps of Engineers denies American citizens the right to mine their lawfully obtained claims.

Alaska & Nome face a budgetary crisis and Alaska needs money now. Alaska's principal savings account outside the Permanent Fund will be depleted by June 30, 2021. Alaska's deficit was \$1.29 billion at the end of the 2020 fiscal year, per the Alaska Department of Revenue. This is a never before seen fiscal budgetary crisis for Alaska, which has created statewide fear. The population of Nome, including businesses are anguished and things are worsening, not improving. Unemployment is skyrocketing, the oil and fishing industries have been decimated, tourism is finished, there is no further relief coming from the federal government and people are making a mass exodus out of the state. Alaska is desperate for projects like IPOPOP for immediate assistance and a start to recovery. This project can generate employment, revive tourism, millions or billions will go to Alaskans through royalties, taxes, and commerce. It is illogical to continue to hinder this project by holding up the permit.

In conclusion, IPOPOP's project must be permitted immediately for the following reasons:

- The 45<sup>th</sup> President of the United States mandated through executive order, that IPOPOP's project be immediately permitted to assist the economy and Alaska
- Governor Dunleavy supports development of Alaska resources through projects like IPOPOP's for the benefit of *all* Alaskans
- IPOPOP will provide billions in royalties, taxes, commerce, tourism and jobs to Alaska, Nome and the Federal government.
- Alaska is in a fiscal crisis and needs money immediately
- It is a simple, not complex, dredging project that will have **no** environmental impact
- The project employs not one, but two turbidity curtains
- There is little to no vegetation or inhabitants in the areas of IPOPOP claims

- The Nome Port of Alaska is currently being dredged by the Corps without issue and is a far more threatening and complex dredging project than IPOP

Ultimately, there is not a single reason to withhold a permit the IPOP project.

Sincerely,

J. Hanser, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang  
Department of Fish and Game  
1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

This letter is in regard to the IPOP gold dredge mining project in the inland waters of the the Bonanza Channel near Nome. I am requesting your support of this project and the procurement of the permit to mine that IPOP has been requesting for over 4 years. I'm one of the 150+ limited partners in this project.

Alaska's mineral wealth is the very reason for its admission to the union in 1959 and must be developed. This must be done responsibly, particularly during this time with the state economy teetering on the brink of disaster. Alaska is currently considered an "economic disaster" and IPOP can relieve the state of that label. Based on IPOP's technology and their crew and founding partners' level of experience, IPOP is proven to be a responsible, beneficial project.

I support the task for regulatory agencies oversight in vetting mining and resource development. Once this is achieved, permits must be issued. This process allows the applicant to perform scientific tests and analyses to either disprove, validate and/or mitigate these concerns. IPOP has done their part. A scant few members of the public along with some Native Tribes do not show much interest in listening to the science or believing the facts. They have demonstrated that their only interest is preventing IPOP from mining. IPOP has followed protocols because it was what was required of them; it followed the rules. The Native Tribe opposition has not followed protocol as it applies to them, yet they still seem very driven to get what they want, employing any method they must – including deceit, smear campaigns, and a number of underhanded tactics.

This permitting process has been postponed and delayed ad nauseam and taken until the third and fourth years for the USACE to even allow IPOP to perform these tests and analysis they were requiring. Unfortunately, IPOP was assigned a corrupt USACE project manager who was working for the Tribes and a few local miners opposing the project for their own unsavory, personal reasons.

This USACE project manager required coring samples to prove the presence and quantity of gold, which is not what the USACE does, (per Tiffany Kwakwa at USACE). Coring permits were then repeatedly delayed for nearly 2 years, although some would argue why Alaska would sell leases to prospect and mine and *then* require proof of gold before being able to begin. The question should not be *is* there gold, but can it be mined safely. As it turns out, once again when IPOP was finally allowed to core, a significant amount of gold presence was proven. The 3% royalties will not only benefit the citizens of Alaska in this most urgent time, but alter the lives of many in a significant, positive way. IPOP also proved that it can and will be mined safely.

IPOP has been waiting over 4 years for USACE to issue the Individual Permit to mine, spent millions of dollars on tests and studies, proven everything the Corps has required of them and has unequivocally earned the permit, yet the Corps continues to withhold it.

I am hoping you can support this project and assist us so permits will be issued in 2021.

Sincerely,

JA Izzo, IPOP LLC Limited Partner

- cc:
- IPOP, LLC
  - J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law
  - James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP
  - Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Congressman Don Young  
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Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I support the approval of mining permits for IPOP in 2021 and am asking for your support and assistance in the procurement of the permits.

As you are undoubtedly aware, Alaska was admitted into the United States Union as the 49<sup>th</sup> state for its rich mineral resources. The purpose was to create prosperity for the country by mining Alaska's resources. To insure this development throughout the United States, the right to mine was written into the Alaska State Constitution for the entire nation. Alaska is thereby bound by Section 8 of the State Constitution to allow any US citizen to mine its mineral resources. The US Army Corps of Engineers is called upon to energize the economy and reduce risks from disasters per its mission statement, while its vision is to pioneer engineering solutions for our Nation's toughest challenges. One of those challenges is to develop its minerals responsibly to achieve the *energization of the economy*. IPOP can assist in *energizing the economy* with the gold contained within its claims, while *reducing risks* to the environment with its safe, chemical-free process.

Mining revenue that will directly strengthen Alaska's economy and collaterally augment subsistence, should be considered a positive commodity, creating excitement and hope for Alaskans and likewise for the Corps of Engineers. This would have likely been the case for most local residents, had the US Army Corps presented the IPOP project truthfully and earnestly, without bias and prejudice; regrettably, this was not the case. Instead, IPOP was presented by the Corps as a group of evildoers from California coming to Alaska to get rich by poaching resources while abolishing subsistence hunting and devastating the environment. IPOP's project manager at that time, was the transmitter of "the big lie". As this disinformation was coming from a US Army Corps of Engineers employee, many people gave credence to the propaganda, initially.

At this point in the project the opposition has dwindled down to a vast minority, who are well aware of the shameless deceit, and have assumed the role of prevaricator. The concerns

contained in the comments you have likely heard in opposition would be valid, were they truly concerns. Unfortunately, the only thing I have heard from opposition has been an overt power play from two Native Tribes who are holding onto the original rhetoric about the California evildoers and the terrible misdeeds IPOPOP has in store.

IPOPOP has delivered scientific evidence supporting every contention they have made with regard to this project to the US Army Corps of Engineers. Any person or entity opposing IPOPOP would be required to conduct their own scientific studies to disprove IPOPOP's conclusive results in order to gain credibility for the denial of a permit to IPOPOP. This is clearly not going to happen. The public comment process is designed to hear concerns and opinions from both sides, subsequently allowing the project owners to provide answers or mitigation processes for those concerns. IPOPOP has proactively provided valid answers to both valid and invalid questions and allegations; therefore, the discussion should be considered concluded, and time to proceed to the issuance phase.

Sincerely,

J Landay, IPOPOP LLC Backer

cc:

- IPOPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune:

I am writing to you with regard to the IPOP dredge mining operation in the Bonanza Channel. I support this project and the immediate issuance of all permits to IPOP to commence mining operations this season. I am a limited partner in the IPOP dredge mining project.

The merits of this project have been submitted and proven. IPOP has absolutely proven this permit must be issued immediately.

IPOP has been faced with extreme bias and has suffered numerous consequences from the actions of IPOP's former USACE project manager. Great consideration should be given to blocking Leslie Tose from any and all access to IPOP records. This is for the protection of the USACE reputation as well as IPOP. Without question, Ms. Tose/USACE has been on a campaign for four years against the IPOP project, while possessing USACE authority to withhold the permits. Here are just a few examples of the Facebook Campaign she is at the very least participating in:

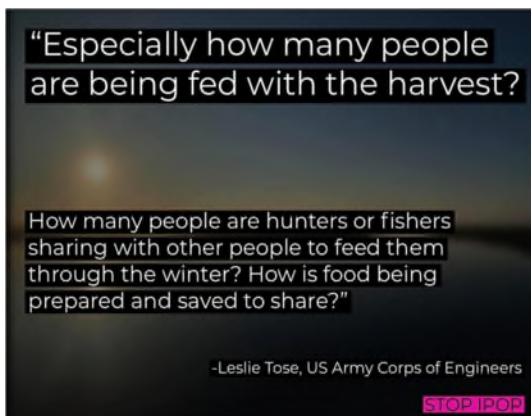
#### FEAR MONGERING AND MISLEADING



#### LESLIE TOSE REQUESTED THE EXTENSION



#### MORE FEAR MONGERING AND DECEIT



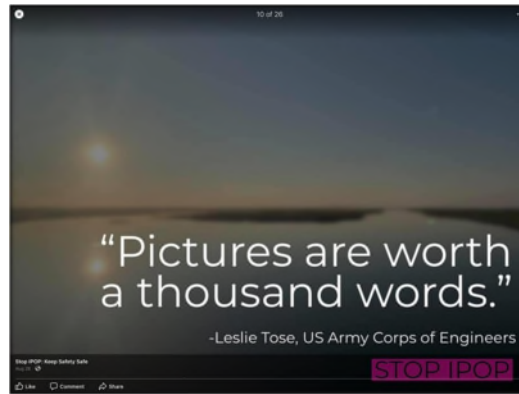
#### THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE STAGED PHOTOS OUTSIDE IPOP CLAIMS



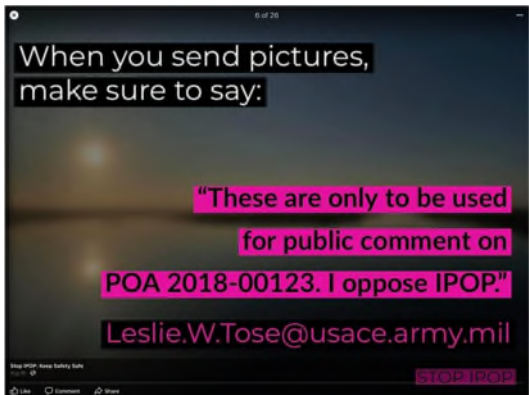
THESE ARE VERY ENLIGHTENING



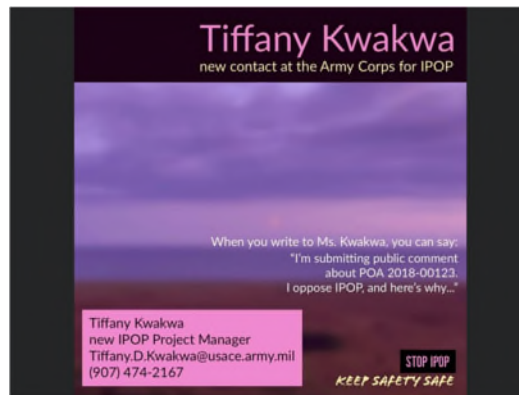
THESE PICTURES CERTAINLY ARE



SHE IS VIRTUALLY WRITING THE LETTERS



DECEPTIVE AND ILLUSORY



This is an absolute abuse of power; and was all done in the name of the USACE; was USACE aware of this? Hundreds of millions of dollars have been lost for Alaska and IPOP due to delays caused by this reprehensible, unethical activity. Incidentally, IPOP has direct knowledge that some Kawarek tribe members "have been after" IPOP claims for a while now, based upon IPOP "abandoning" their equipment in Nome (not unusual in Nome) after USACE bankrupted the company with endless delays and millions in unwarranted studies and testing. The plan was, they would then be able to steal IPOP equipment and mine their inland water claims in the Bonanza Channel while taking over IPOP claims. (We have this on very reliable authority). How long do you suppose it would have taken *them* to get a permit under Ms. Tose? The USACE should closely examine Ms. Tose' email and phone records for the protection of the Corps. IPOP cannot make further assertions against Ms Tose on that matter because it does not have access to that information. We are confident that the Corps aspires to practice unbiased views of a permit application.

Assuredly, you are aware that the USACE is the leading expert in the world of planning and conducting dredging operations. IPOP's dredging plans are equally well planned and will be equally professionally conducted. The current plight of the nation and the state of Alaska requires the immediate issuance of permits for IPOP.

IPOP is shovel ready and can be mining in a matter of days upon receipt of the permit.

Your careful consideration, support and initiative is very much appreciated.

J L Vertefeuille  
IPOP LLC Limited Partner

cc:  
- IPOP, LLC  
- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law  
- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP  
- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



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Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am in favor of the IPOP permit to mine it's claims in the Bonanza Channel. I was informed when IPOP's first USACE project manager, Leslie Tose, "retired" from the IPOP projects and told we had a Senior Project Manager overseeing this permit process. I had some hope that we may finally get the permit we had been 3 years for...now we have been waiting 4 years.

For the last four years, IPOP's former USACE project manager has committed numerous procedural violations with regard to this project in responses to requests to conduct required testing and studies on the IPOP mining claims. One of the overtly deliberate delays cost the project nearly 2 years, waiting for her to sign a permit that *she* required for coring to provide proof of gold. IPOP has complied with requests, while their project manager held the permit hostage. There is a very long list of ethical violations you will find on this USACE employee should you choose to conduct an internal investigation on the allegations against her. As these numerous violations were committed under the name of the Corps, her conduct has been cited as proclamations of the USACE.

IPOP has no desire to delay this permit any longer than it has already been, they simply want the permit so they can commence mining this season. There is still time to mine this season but that time is running very short.

In a nutshell, these are the verified and/or verifiable facts:

- IPOP has proven copious amounts of gold on its' claims – *verified with core sample*
- IPOP will likely bring well over \$500 Million to Alaska with a 3% royalty – *verified based upon core sample*
- IPOP will not destroy the land – *verified with scientific studies*
- IPOP will not harm the environment - *verified with scientific studies*
- IPOP will not interfere with subsistence hunting and fishing on their meager one-tenth of one percentage of the area per season. Any subsistence hunters have approximately 14,999.9 acres for their desired activities - *verified with historical data research and scientific studies*
- IPOP claims studied have proven less than one acre of eelgrass that can be marked with buoys for avoidance. Again, one-tenth of one percent of the area as well - *verified with scientific studies*
- Turbidity has been mitigated with the use of a double turbidity curtain - *verified with scientific studies*
- IPOP has been very accommodating to all agencies; unfortunately, Ms. Tose has been aggressively combative and uncooperative every step of the way – *verifiable with project file examination*
- IPOP, its' partners, Alaska and the federal and state government have lost millions as a direct result of the actions of Ms. Tose, as the USACE project manager for IPOP - *verifiable with data calculations*

IPOP does not wish to lose any more money than the millions it already has, and I know that Alaska cannot afford to keep losing money, but needs to make money. This can be accomplished with a permit to IPOP to start rebuilding the economy. IPOP will increase Nome commerce, provide jobs, pay taxes, contribute to tourism, and not create any interruption to persons, businesses, wildlife, environment or lives.

I believe both IPOP and Alaska have lost enough while USACE is controlling this permit issuance, and I believe the USACE has a moral and ethical duty to the state and the citizens of the country, including IPOP to grant the permit so IPOP can mine this season. IPOP does possess the constitutional right to mine its claims and it has the financial fortitude to be a success.

Best regards,

J Muckerman IPOP Limited Partner

cc:

- *IPOP, LLC*

- *J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law*

- *James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP*

- *Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

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Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune,

This letter is regarding the IPOP mining project in the Bonanza Channel near Nome.

I am a former resident of Ketchikan, Juneau and Fairbanks Alaska. I have family residing in Haines, Alaska who have been there for over 40 years. My family residing in Alaska is struggling just to survive, given this severe economic crisis in Alaska.

I presume you are aware that the IPOP mining project can bring economic relief to Nome, as well as the entire state. Are you also aware that IPOP is in compliance with every requirement for the issuance of a permit to begin mining immediately, and has been for years?

Unfortunately, there has been a misconception in the community that this permit is for Safety Sound, which is **not** the case. The misinformation about Safety Sound was told to local media by the USACE. Subsequently, The Nome Nugget conducted a survey, asking people if they were opposed to the IPOP mining operation in Safety Sound, which was a method of starting an untrue rumor. I am a limited partner with IPOP on this project and I assure you, our permit application specifically states "Bonanza Channel" This is of course easily verifiable, as is every Nome Nugget and KNOM interview with the USACE about this project and every survey as well.

I read an article in KNOM last year during the public comment period and quite frankly, it seems like a flagrant conflict of interest for a USACE employee in charge of permit approval to add *their own* personal comments to the very request for public comment that *they* issued. It was very clear in the article that USACE has every intention of continuing to obstruct this permit for as long as they are able, and no intention of ever issuing a permit to IPOP - while Alaska and it's citizens suffer with no jobs, no money and no means to make money. Meanwhile, USACE employees continue to collect a paycheck as federal employees, so I guess it's of no consequence to them.

As USACE and the other federal agencies involved with this permitting process have jobs with the federal government, it is unlikely they are suffering in the manner others are. Alaska desperately needs this project to aid in economic recovery. Stalling and demands that are well outside of an existing presidential executive order is not of benefit to Alaskans, I believe it is self serving only to themselves. This does not include all agencies, as USACE seems to be the only agency with an axe to grind against IPOP.

These permits should be issued immediately, without further delay. USACE has failed to make its case against a permit because it appears to be from a personal agenda against IPOP, with no supporting evidence. IPOP has provided scientific findings to prove their case for a permit beyond a shadow of a doubt. I would like to inquire as to why the permit is still being held up.

It's time for USACE to concede this pointless, unfounded crusade. It's time for USACE to heed the executive presidential order. It's time for USACE to consider the individuals and families of Alaska and issue the permit so IPOP can commence mining in this 2021 season beginning June 1, 2021. I am asking for your help in making it happen.

Regards,

J N Vertefeuille  
Limited Partner of IPOP LLC

*cc:*

*- IPOP, LLC*

*- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law*

*- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP*

*- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
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Dear Commissioner Brune

I am an avid supporter of the IPOP project; hence, permit issuance and would like to submit to you my concerns regarding the granting of said mining permit for IPOP.

My first concern is regarding the biased and prejudicial nature in which our permitting request has been handled by Ms. Leslie Tose as a project manager for USACE.

As you are likely aware, the 45<sup>th</sup> President of the United States issued an Executive Order which would have granted IPOP the opportunity to mine in the 2020 season; however, it was ignored by Federal Agencies. In addition to the President, the Governor of Alaska has made it very clear through his own proclamation that "Alaska is open for business" which includes one of its most precious financial resources, mining.

Despite the financial revenue IPOP will bring to the State of Alaska and to its citizens, Leslie Tose (our Project Manager until mid 2020) on behalf of the USACE deliberately and prejudicially delayed and obstructed IPOP's numerous attempts to obtain a number of permits, including but certainly not limited to a mining permit. I use the word "prejudicially" because IPOP has met every demand and request issued by Leslie Tose and has still not been granted a mining permit. Therefore; if there was no reason not to grant a permit, I could only presume that our denials of such must be based upon the personal prejudices of Ms. Tose. Ms. Tose was removed from our project nearly a year ago, yet we still have no permit to mine.

Ms. Tose demonstrated her prejudice and bias publicly, using well known media outlets, social media and word of mouth. While Ms. Tose continued to deny IPOP's permit, she freely granted permits to personal friends, such as a mineral claim owner mining his claims in the Bonanza Channel positioned at the mouth of the Solomon River. Ms. Tose has shown herself to be a friend of the opposition by taking up causes against IPOP and creating adversity from some of the native tribes.

My other concern is regarding the substantial loss of revenue I am not receiving. Our coring samples indicate a significant amount of gold present on IPOP's claims in the Bonanza Channel. Every day that IPOP is not in the water mining is a substantial loss of revenue to not only myself and the partners of IPOP, but to Alaska as well. IPOP has paid out millions of dollars on additional testing, scientific studies, wages and incidental expense. Many of these studies and tests are repeats that had already scientifically proven IPOP's assertions. Every additional and repeated scientific study costs IPOP thousands of dollars. It is also a substantial loss of revenue to the State of Alaska. It is imperative for all parties involved that a mining permit be granted immediately. The failure to do so could bring great harm to the economy and to the citizens of Alaska.

Thank you for reviewing my concerns and for your thoughtful consideration of this letter. I hope that you will see the importance of issuing a mining permit for the 2021 season, especially considering that the price of gold is very high right now. Granting a permit to IPOP allows us to work cooperatively to benefit not only IPOP, but the economy of Nome and every citizen of the great State of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Joan P, IPOP LLC Backer

*cc:*

*- IPOP, LLC*

*- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law*

*- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP*

*- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
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Dear Commissioner Brune

I am a backer of IPOP in support of the issuance of all requisite permits to the IPOP dredge mining project in the Bonanza Channel, and am writing to implore you to assist in the procurement of the permits to commence dredge mining for gold June 1, 2021.

The locale of the IPOP claims are in an area rarely or never used for subsistence, and haven't been for at least 5 years, likely longer. Activities such as birdwatching, nature walks, berry picking and any other activities do not occur on IPOP claims either, as it is far from ideal for those activities. Furthermore, there are over 40 ideal spots for birdwatching in and around Nome, and the location of IPOP claims are not listed among them.

The 3% royalty Alaska will receive from IPOP's proceeds will have a massively positive impact on the state budget alone. Additionally, IPOP and its partners will pay state and local taxes. The commerce to Nome will be a great benefit to local merchants. IPOP has proven abundant gold on its legally obtained claims in the Bonanza Channel with supporting evidence included in the permit application, so it is easily calculated to be of immense benefit to Alaska just in royalties alone.

IPOP's processing method is environmentally friendly, as evidenced with scientific studies submitted to the Corps. IPOP has proven there is nearly no eelgrass present on its claims (one tenth of one percent), also evidenced with scientific study submitted to the Corps.

Turbidity has never been of consequence, as there is nearly no current in the location of IPOP claims (measured at 0.5 feet per second). Despite this, USACE wanted IPOP to employ the use of a turbidity curtain, IPOP complied. After waiting months for the permit to test the curtain, naturally was still no turbidity issue with the curtain. USACE was still dissatisfied, so IPOP purchased a second curtain to surround the first curtain, which will be employed and has been tested. Lo and behold, turbidity continues to be of no consequence, as the IPOP operation will employ the double turbidity curtain, evidenced to work just fine as evidence with scientific studies submitted to USACE.

Due to the COVID-19 crisis the national economy has greatly suffered, as have the local and state governments. President Trump issued an Executive Order in June, 2020 directing federal agencies to expedite permitting processes, including but not limited to the elimination of the public comment process. It is puzzling that the

USACE has turned a blind eye to a Presidential order, which to my knowledge has not been overturned, especially when it is at the expense of American lives and livelihoods.

The IPOP mining project will create dozens of well paying jobs, pay taxes, buy goods and services within Nome, revitalize tourism and literally kick-start an economic recovery for Alaska. It is difficult to make sense of how an executive branch of the federal government can continue to obstruct a permit, using tactics that are in direct opposition of an executive order issued by the 45<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, preventing a state and the country from the assistance needed for recovery.

IPOP has submitted everything the agencies have required, and then some. IPOP has spent upwards of a million dollars on scientific studies which have successfully proven everything we have stated about this project, yet regardless of what we submit, the USACE requires more. This has been delayed for over 4 years and I don't believe there is an end in sight without some intervention.

The merits of this project are unquestionably adequate to issue IPOP the Individual Permit to mine promptly. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

J. O'Brien, IPOP LLC Backer

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



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**Senator Lisa Murkowski**  
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Washington, DC 20510

**Attorney General Treg R. Taylor**  
1031 West 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 200  
Anchorage, AK 99501

**Commissioner Corri A. Feige**  
Department of Natural Resources  
400 Willoughby Avenue, Fifth Floor  
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**Senator Dan Sullivan**  
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**Kip Knudsen**  
State and Federal Relations  
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**Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang**  
Department of Fish and Game  
1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

Please let this letter serve as my request for support and assistance if you are able to provide both or either. I am a backer of the IPOP dredge mining operation in the Bonanza Channel. For the past 4 years USACE has been playing games, withholding our permit and violating our right to mine our claims.

I lived in Alaska for years. I have been a hunter for decades, so I was very interested in this project for a number of reasons. I also have family residing in Alaska where my brother-in-law is a miner and they are in financial trouble.

I followed the IPOP mining scuttlebutt for about 2 years before becoming a limited partner and I was very surprised when I read the public notice. It actually led me to do some research on the project and I wondered why the A.C.E. hasn't been interested in bringing some economic relief to Nome, and the whole state for that matter. Additionally, the area where IPOP claims are situated are nowhere near subsistence activities. No hunter will go there to hunt, simply because wildlife doesn't go to the shallow waters. In short, the fish won't go there because the water is too shallow and the wildlife won't go there because there is nothing to eat.

I found a number of articles in Nome Nugget and KNOM regarding IPOP. Every article includes an interview with a USACE employee who was the project manager for IPOP. The interviewee, painted such a negative picture of IPOP, I thought I misread that it was the project manager at the Army Corps of Engineers. I saw a Facebook site, Stop IPOP: Keep Safety Safe. They claim to be about protecting Safety Sound which is "under threat from IPOP". I have seen the location on maps, Google Earth, etc., and this cause isn't even a cause; although that's how it is categorized. IPOP is posing no threat to anybody, not even animals. I'm ashamed to admit that for 2 years I blindly believed what was being said by a few people, who really thought IPOP would be the end of their chance for survival. I have since educated them on what I discovered; however, it's hard to believe that the A.C.E. would participate in this. That has to be some sort of a conflict of interest, I would think.

It is very obvious that IPOP is in compliance with the requirements for the permit to mine, so I'm wondering why we aren't mining yet. My guess is because the USACE has an obvious bias against IPOP and is unwilling to let it go. Alaska needs help and I can't think of another means of getting it. IPOP is more environmentally friendly than any other mining operation in Alaska, and possibly even the country. This grudge a USACE employee is carrying against IPOP is hurting the state, Nome and in truth, the country...and the USACE is allowing it.

The IPOP permits should be issued immediately, without further delay. The case against a permit for IPOP has failed. Conversely, IPOP has provided scientific findings to prove their case *for* a permit beyond any doubt.

The individuals and families of Alaska need this project. Please issue the permit so IPOP can mine in the this 2021 season.

Sincerely,  
J.Patton, IPOP LLC Backer

cc:

- *IPOP, LLC*
- *J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law*
- *James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP*
- *Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

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Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I hereby express my support for the above referenced project and request your support and assistance in obtaining permit approval and issuance for the IPOP dredge mining operation . I believe this project can be a great success for Alaska and the United States of America.

I believe in America and I believe that it is the obligation of the US Army Corps of Engineers to approve and permit any project possessing the ability to create wealth and opportunities for our great nation. IPOP has scientifically proven itself to be that project.

Core samples taken from IPOP claims indicate significant gold presence in remunerative amounts. Employing conservative estimates, IPOP is confident that it can produce well over 100,000 troy ounces of gold per season, of which Alaska will receive 3% as royalties.

The outlying location of IPOP claims is so remote and isolated, local residents do not use these lands, in fact, even the animals don't use it. IPOP will dredge approximately 20 acres per season with one dredge, which is a minuscule fraction of the entire Bonanza Channel inland waterway consisting of roughly 15,000 acres. To be exact it's about a tenth of a percent.

Erroneous statements have been made by some Native Tribes and USACE regarding the Bonanza Channel area where IPOP claims are situated. It has been stated that there is no gold in these inland waters, there is eelgrass present on the claims, dredging in these waters will create turbidity that will prevent salmon from spawning, local residents and Native Tribes use the area for subsistence to feed their families, IPOP does not employ practical methods for dredging, IPOP will destroy the land with their encampment, IPOP is uncharitable and callous, IPOP has refused to meet with Native Tribes, IPOP is detrimental to the environment; and the rhetoric goes on to claim every atrocity imaginable, even addressing that IPOP is a California conglomerate threatening to ruin Nome and everything else in its path. Please remember *who* has been making these ridiculous allegations for the past 4+ years. IPOP has proven every last one of these assertions to be mendacious propaganda, with science, written requests to the USACE to host a meeting with Native Tribes (which was ignored), an actual meeting with a Tribal Leader, etc.

The Constitution of Alaska provides for every citizen over the age of 18, the right to mine mineral resources, and IPOP has lawfully leased these inland water claims from the State of

Alaska for the purpose of mining. IPOP has the right to mine, provided it does so in a manner consistent with all applicable laws and regulations – which IPOP has provided in its Plan of Operation. And let's not kid ourselves, Alaska desperately needs the 3% royalty, not to mention the commerce, tourism, taxes, and even the notoriety.

Please help us with a permit if you can. I urge the USACE to grant all required permits for this project to proceed immediately. Thank you.

Yours Truly,

JP Hastings, IPOP LLC Backer

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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**Congressman Don Young**  
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Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I support IPOP's mining permit and am hopeful that you are willing to support the approval of a permit to mine this season. IPOP has been requesting a permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers for over 4 years. Our desire is that the permit process can finally move along with no further delays.

From the outset, IPOP has been met with opposition, animosity, false allegations, bad press, claims of no gold, delays and a number of other things; and that's just from the Army Corps of Engineers. IPOP has been faced with the same from a couple of Native Tribes, a handful of miners and a fishing operation or two. One of the fishing operations is connected to one of the Native Tribes. The vast majority of local residents and business owners are very much in favor of IPOP, while those opposed to the project represent a vast minority, as evidenced by a 2020 survey. *(Included as an attachment)*

IPOP has delivered their scientific studies to the Corps, which unequivocally debunks every single grievance from those opposed to the project. The Corps has verified their review of these studies. The opposers have not delivered, nor even offered to perform or deliver a test, study or document to corroborate their objections. They have had over 4 years to do it, so why haven't they? My very educated guess is that they don't want to waste their money (a million dollars specifically) on tests and studies that have absolutely no possibility of disproving IPOP's science.

IPOP has incurred over \$1 Million in additional expense attributable to USACE, specifically IPOP's previous project manager charged with the issuance of the permit from the Army Corps of Engineers. IPOP and its partners have lost millions, ALASKA has lost millions, and Nome has been deprived of commerce that IPOP would bring to the community. IPOP has scientifically proven their assertions of gold presence on their claims, no harm to the environment, no eelgrass impact, no subsistence interference, no turbidity issue, and no dispossession from fishing operations.

The Native Tribes own a very large amount of land in Alaska; however, they do not own the entire state, nor do they own or regulate State land. This objection to the IPOP project is a clear attempt to usurp power and land they do not possess. There is also the matter of the gold; yes, they want that too. They had a plan in place that was going quite well for them until the Corps made a change in IPOP's project managers. This is not a theory, this was told to some IPOP employees by a participant.

This participant apparently felt the need to brag about the exploit; you may have heard the saying, loose lips sink ships. IPOP isn't going anywhere and they can't have its equipment or claims.

In these unprecedented days, we live in a world filled with destruction, shame, entitlement and indignation. Hopefully that will dwindle and change, but until it does, people cannot live a healthy life while surrounded by negativity and persistent offense. It is a human need to counterbalance negative with positive. People are fearful of the economic situation today and there doesn't appear to be a clear plan to resolve it in Alaska. IPOP is ready and able to mine immediately, which will accomplish more than relief and delight, it will give them hope for a brighter future. It will help get Alaska out of debt and back to prosperity, and quite honestly it will likely keep Governor Dunleavy in office – which I happen to view as a very good thing.

IPOP has been manipulated and delayed long enough. Alaska has lost enormously long enough. I encourage to consider my comments, put Alaska first and support the permit issuance to IPOP so Alaskans can start to thrive.

Sincerely,

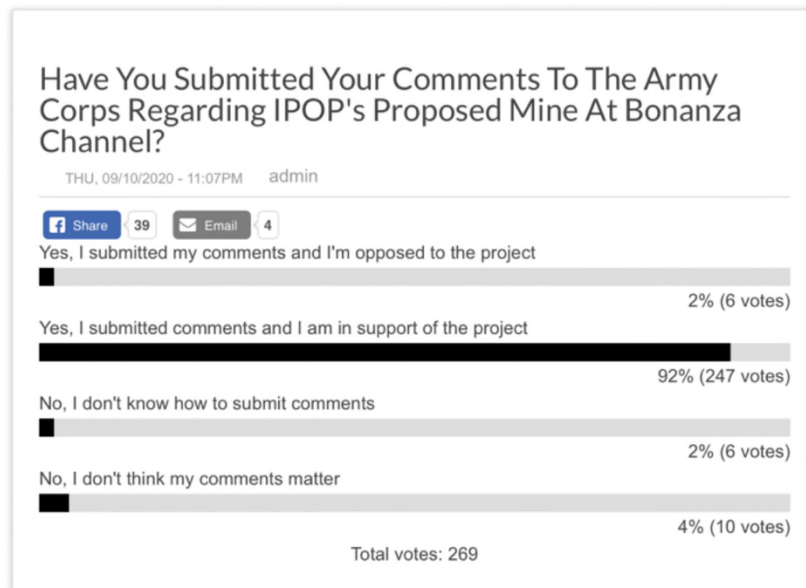
J Phillippe, Backer of IPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOP, LLC
- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law
- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP
- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

#### ATTACHMENT: SURVEY

### Attachment: Final Numbers September 24, 2020



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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am a limited partner in the IPOPOP dredge mining project in the Bonanza Channel just outside of Nome, asking for your help and support in favor of IPOPOP and issuance of the Individual Permit for this project to commence mining this season beginning in June, 2021.

Alaska's mineral wealth must be developed responsibly, especially now while the state economy seems to be hanging in the balance. Based on my research and familiarity with IPOPOP's technology and their crew and founding partners' level of experience, I am committed to the belief that it is a responsible, beneficial project.

I am in agreement with the oversight of regulatory agencies in vetting mining and resource development. Permits should of course be issued upon completion of the process. This allows the public to be made aware and voice concerns, while allowing the applicant to perform scientific tests and analysis to either disprove, validate and/or mitigate these concerns. IPOPOP has done their part, and has been for over 4 years. The members of the public along with some Native Tribes don't seem interested in listening. It appears they have two interests – vocally opposing the project and preventing IPOPOP from mining. IPOPOP has followed protocols because it was what was required of them; it followed the rules. The Native Tribe opposition has not followed protocol as it applies to them, yet they still seem very driven to get what they want, while USACE has been very accommodating to them – in fact, overly accommodating.

Why this process has been postponed and delayed ad nauseam and taken until the third and fourth years to even allow IPOPOP to perform these tests and analyses was at one time incomprehensible to me. Eventually I discovered it was at the hands of IPOPOP's previous USACE project manager, pandering to the Tribes. Coring sample permits to prove the presence of gold were repeatedly delayed, although some would argue why Alaska would sell leases to prospect and mine and *then* require proof of gold before being able to begin. The question should not be *is* there gold, but can it be mined safely. As it turns out, once again when IPOPOP was finally allowed to core, a significant amount of gold presence was proven. The 3% royalties will not only benefit

the citizens of Alaska in this most urgent time, but alter the lives of many is a significant, positive way.

I am hoping that with your help the process will no longer be delayed, the data and science will prevail and permits will be issued for mining in 2021.

J. Preston, Limited Partner IPOPOP LLC

*cc:*

*- IPOPOP, LLC*

*- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law*

*- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP*

*- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*



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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am writing to you to ask for your support for the above referenced project, in favor of a permit for the IPOPOP gold dredge mining operation in the Bonanza Channel near Nome.

I believe we are all aware of the individuals residing in Nome, and elsewhere, who object to this project; however, the Constitution of Alaska provides for the right to mine claims. IPOPOP has lawfully purchased leases on Bonanza Channel inland waters from the State of Alaska for the sole purpose of mining. The State of Alaska was fully aware of this purpose, happily accepted the money for it, then the USACE spent the next four years denying IPOPOP the permit to mine its claims. As I said, whether anybody likes it or not, IPOPOP has the right to mine its lawfully purchased claims as provisioned in the State Constitution. The IPOPOP operation is consistent with applicable laws and regulations and has provided everything USACE has required of them; therefore, from a legal standpoint the permits must be issued to them immediately. I question the legality and integrity of the USACE disallowing the very activity for which IPOPOP paid.

The USACE has a responsibility to balance the advantages and the disadvantages of this project. These matters may be physical, such as tons of gold production or they can be incorporeal, such as environmental impact. An informed, forthright assessment of this project has revealed that the advantages are abundant, while disadvantages are unequivocally nonexistent.

This mining project will produce gold in very significant amounts, as evidenced in the core samples which have presented as low as 13 grams per ton (which is certainly nothing to sneeze at) and as high as just over 300 grams per ton. As IPOPOP's royalty partner, Alaska will receive 3% of this as royalties. The royalty alone will be instrumental as a solution to Alaska's present budget shortfall. IPOPOP partners will pay income taxes to the United States Treasury on their portion of the income. This could easily be well over \$50 million per year or more for the federal government. Nome will receive sales taxes, commerce and tourism from the partners, and local businesses will benefit from selling fuel and supplies to IPOPOP.

The area IPOP proposes to mine is an inland waterway. It is very seldom used of for subsistence by some local area residents. The complete area of these particular inland waters is roughly 15,000 acres. IPOP intends to mine 20 acres per season. This is a negligible portion of the total available area, which will indisputably have no effect on subsistence usage, which is virtually nonexistent out there - this is a verified fact.

IPOP will employ methods causing no desecration to the environment and will not use any chemicals for mining. The dredge will simply vacuum up water and sand and then the gold will be separated from the sand using only gravity. The water and sand are then returned to the waterway where the sand is deposited into the trench that has been produced by the dredge. IPOP will use sonar and computer assistance to restore the floor to its original condition. IPOP has the equipment to implement this project safely and without causing perpetual environmental injury.

All equipment utilized is insulated for noise reduction. The low noise level is no louder than the sound from the nearby road on the barrier islands.

I disclose that I am one of over 150 IPOP limited partners. IPOP, LLC and its partners, as defined by the SEC in Securities Act Rule 501(a), are accredited investors. Aggregately, we manage over \$500 million in assets and possess the finances to make this endeavor a success.

I can assure you that IPOP and its limited partners acknowledge the magnitude of this project and feels privileged to be a factor in the recovery of the Alaska economy. IPOP has a pivotal obligation to create wealth and opportunities, not only for Alaska, but for our nation as well. In addition, many of the limited partners are professional industrialists who possess the experience conducive to this project.

It is essential that IPOP be granted the permits to begin operation forthwith. There are no disadvantages, but is very advantageous for the great state of Alaska and the great citizens of the United States of America.

Very truly yours,

J Sandler, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune,

I endorse the IPOP suction dredge gold mining project. As a limited partner, I am very familiar with the IPOP project and am anxiously awaiting the outcome of this much talked about operation simply requesting a permit to dredge the Bonanza Channel for gold on its own claims.

I'll go ahead and state the obvious - this project will help Alaska and everyone in it, so what's the hold up? Alaska is not in a position to turn down help, and Governor Dunleavy certainly didn't reject the offer from President Trump when he sent the state over a billion dollars last year. I can't imagine him saying "no need, we're doing great on our own" if the federal government offered another billion or two. It's academic anyway because it's pretty unlikely to happen; especially if the President or the administration were to get word that there is a project offering the state millions and is still waiting for the permits to do it. I believe this is what President Trump was referring to in June of last year, when he passed the executive order to do away with the obsolete methods used to delay these types of projects.

This operation may be the most straightforward, benign mining project Alaska has ever seen. IPOP is an uncomplicated, innovative gold mining project that simply uses gravity to filter gold from sand, expunging the need for chemicals that pollute the water. From an environmental standpoint, the IPOP mining operation is environmentally sound; unlike any other mining operation I have ever heard of.

The opposition from some of the Native Tribes have made their agenda quite obvious. What is not obvious is the agenda of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. As a citizen of the United States, I certainly expect the Corps to investigate a serious conflict of interest from our first project manager who should have recused herself from the project at the outset. Given this profound, consequential misconduct that has cost IPOP's partners and the State of Alaska millions, I hereby request that you show support for this project and the immediate issuance of the permits required for dredge mining to commence June 1, 2021.

As I stated, I am a limited IPOP partner and it is clear that IPOP has been very accommodating to all agency requests and works well with State agencies, who by all accounts have been exceptional, including ADNR and ADEC. Perhaps the Army Corps of Engineers should follow their lead and closely examine the benefits IPOP will bring to Alaskans, who are suffering the effects of a national crisis.

Thank you in advance for your attention to the IPOP project and for your anticipated support of your state.

J. Sepe, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Daman Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I hereby offer this letter as a request for your support and assistance in the consideration of the approval of the IPOP permit for the gold mining operation in the Bonanza Channel. I am a backer of IPOP and of course endorse the approval and issuance of all permits necessary to mine.

I believe and support the integrity of this project. IPOP has consistently revealed its respect for the local population in Nome and the best interests of the state. IPOP is a respected Chamber of Commerce member and has the unbiased support of the organization. IPOP has contributed in excess of \$3 Million to various Alaska businesses and charities. IPOP pledged to interface with the Iditarod Trail and Iron Dog organizations to avoid interference with race routes. IPOP has not and will not cross Native Lands for ingress or egress of the project site, and the Natives Tribes are and have always been aware of this.

The project is comprised of intelligent, law abiding United States citizens. The royalty fee of 3% of the proceeds of this project that will go to the State of Alaska, will amount to millions annually. IPOP and its 150+ limited partners aren't complaining about that. They aren't accommodating local media with abhorrent interviews, or starting Facebook smear campaigns, or rabble rousing because they're greedy and want all the money. IPOP respects the regulations associated with the mining project that will go to the state. As a matter of fact, they are honored to be an integral participant in the recovery of Alaska's economic disaster. It is very unfortunate that the bias has been made so evident throughout this 4+ year process against the "outsider California mining company" and is so deeply ingrained that they do not want to recognize outreach attempts or make the effort to acknowledge science.

IPOP has been the subject of unsubstantiated, arbitrary attacks causing wrongfully influenced delays while other toxic Tribal mining projects operate candidly. I have become disillusioned by the unethical practices of IPOP's own project manager assigned by the ACE, leaving many to question where the lines between due process and undue influence are drawn.

After the removal of IPOP's former project manager, I was hopeful that more rational and science-based heads would finally prevail; however, here we are, nearly a year later, still waiting and hoping for a permit. I was hopeful that I would be able to once again place faith and trust in a decent and just system, but that faith and trust is fading with every season that elapses with no permit.

IPOP must be treated fairly and without bias by the ACE, which has not been the case for the past 4 years and counting. Duly given rights of IPOP and its partners as citizens of the United States must be recognized. Native Tribes claim sovereignty and I take no offense to that; however, I am offended by their baseless allegations and theatrics taking priority over American citizens who are abiding by statutes of the United States of America. I am offended that they are being rewarded for their greed and animosity by our own federal government withholding IPOP's permit.

IPOP has submitted science while Native Tribes and other opponents have submitted unsubstantiated, untruthful, protestations and irate, emotional outbursts. IPOP and its partners have urged the ACE to approve permits for IPOP, to no avail. Now I urge you to help us in any manner you are able. Thank you for listening.

Regards,  
J Sao Marcos, IPOP LLC Backer

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I write to you regarding issuing a permit to allow IPOP, LLC to dredge for gold in the Bonanza channel in Nome, Alaska. I am in favor of a healing economy and therefore support the IPOP project and I'm hoping you will too. The Army Corps of Engineers has been holding up IPOP's permit for over 4 years.

I fully embrace the necessity of a review of any permit application. The needs of the environment and the users of the Bonanza channel should be taken into account. Likewise, the welfare of the people hinges upon an economic recovery and the US ACE should take that into account first and foremost. When I see the tribal mines USACE has approved and permitted that are some of the most toxic in the nation, I must question that. IPOP has proven with science that this operation cause no harm to the environment. IPOP doesn't even use chemicals.

I believe there will always be opponents, not wanting a habitat to be destroyed, but these fears need to be based in fact. Additionally, I believe human needs take priority over the easy comforts of animals who thrive in the wild. They *will* find a new residence, as it is in their nature and IPOP will not be the mining company to evict any wildlife from their environs, as has been proven with scientific studies. Some people will lump all mining operations together as careless enterprises, when in fact, IPOP has proven with these extensive studies recently submitted that IPOP can and will leave the area the same or improved after a very temporary alteration.

Given the state's budget and services crisis, this small temporary alteration will provide an enormous and much needed revenue to Alaskan citizens at both the state and local level.

USACE should not be allowed to pigeonhole IPOP's innovative equipment and technology in with the ravagers of the past...or present, if you count the native tribe highly toxic mines. IPOP is committed to setting the bar very high for the future of placer

mining. USACE has looked at the data. Had they looked at it objectively they would have concluded that IPOP has addressed and mitigated any concerns with facts and science, and they would have issued permits to mine in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and they would issue it now for 2021. Clearly, that still hasn't happened. Doesn't anyone wonder why?

Sincerely,

J Vargas, IPOP LLC Backer

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang  
Department of Fish and Game  
1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

About 4 years ago I was asked by a long-time friend and colleague if I wanted to hear about a gold-mining project in Alaska he was becoming a limited partner in. I was skeptical. Number one, mining for gold seemed too risky for my moderate investment mindset, and number two, I am a dedicated “tree-hugging” environmentalist. He firmly believed however, in the General Partner’s experience and research so I agreed to look it over. I asked *my* questions and did *my* research. I came to the conclusion that this project was going to change the way mining could be done - without hurting the environment.

I would never have chosen to get involved in an operation that did not respect the land and water as much as the IPOP project does. I welcomed public comment because I figured I was “one of them” and IPOP’s evidence would surely convince others like me, who would in fact also benefit from royalties paid to their home state budget, providing public programs, education and mineral/oil dividends. Evidently science has come up against the brick wall of *blind* opposition numerous times.

The campaign “Save Safety” is a case in point. Save it from what? The responsible use of it as a resource? Over-fishing an area is irresponsible but can I universally restrict all citizens from fishing without examining exactly how much they are fishing and what methods they are using?

Responsible mining is not synonymous with utter destruction of a habitat. It was my sincerest hope that with the submission of the in-depth environmental studies carried out in the last few months, that the Corp would ultimately feel satisfied that IPOP has proven its case with science, and be comfortable issuing permits in the face of *blind* opposition. Unfortunately, they have continued to increase demands, thereby preventing us from mining.

I request your intervention in the issuance of the Individual Permit so we can commence dredge mining June 1, 2021

Sincerely,  
J Walker, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:  
- IPOP, LLC  
- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law  
- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP  
- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am an IPOP advocate. I am also an advocate for the rights of United States citizens, including the right to mine the mineral resources of the state of Alaska. It is critical that the truth be told as it relates to the statements of opposition to the IPOP project. Since 2017, notwithstanding with the interference of the USACE, IPOP has been attempting to meet with and make presentations to the tribes opposing the project. Truth should have bearing in this process, although opposition has presented the USACE with nothing but deliberate falsehoods, so please allow IPOP to present you with *truth*.

IPOP has been through numerous delays and obstruction by its USACE project manager, who was anything but impartial. The project manager was actively assisting the native organizations in opposition to IPOP to kill this project, even while she was the project manager of it (she was removed from the project September 4, 2020). It is well known throughout Alaska that native organizations historically oppose nearly every proposed project in Alaska - that isn't their own - involving mineral resources. Since 2017, numerous USACE guidelines and regulations have been violated by IPOP's [now former] USACE project manager. Meanwhile, IPOP has proven that it has no intention of abandoning its massive gold discovery in the Bonanza channel, which will provide hundreds of millions of dollars to Alaska.

IPOP is a faith and charity based as an operation. IPOP has spent millions in town and has made numerous charitable contributions. Despite this, the local tribal organizations falsely claim that IPOP has failed at community outreach, knowingly, as nothing could be further from the truth. There are certain native organizations in and around Nome continuing a slanderous and libelous campaign of lies and false allegations against IPOP. I acknowledge that there is a new project manager assigned to the IPOP project, but that didn't stop her. She accommodated an interview with Nome Nugget prior to 4pm after she was removed from the project. Weeks after her removal was conducting an anti-IPOP survey from her direct line at USACE during work hours.

USACE should be upset about this, technically USACE conducted the survey. Everything she did falls directly on the shoulders of the USACE.

IPOP was hopeful that their most recently released scientific reports based on science and conducted at great expense, would overcome the emotional playbook hysteria that seem to be present by these same organizations who use that playbook every day; however, USACE continues to stall and demand more. It is sadly ironic that the success of the mineral exploration in Alaska built the state, while it created a dependency state among many of its residents. This irony is about to come to an end as the Prudhoe Bay discovery money is running out. The USACE should work with IPOP, not against it. Alaska has the mineral wealth Alaskans deserve.

Very truly yours,

J Workman, IPOP LLC Backer and USA Advocate

*cc:*

*- IPOP, LLC*

*- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law*

*- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP*

*- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am writing to you to convey my support for the above referenced project, in favor of a permit for IPOP and ask for your support and participation in helping IPOP secure the long overdue mining permit.

While there are a few select individuals residing in Nome, and on Native Tribal lands, who object to this project, the Constitution of Alaska provides for the right to mine claims. IPOP has lawfully purchased leases on Bonanza Channel inland waters from the State of Alaska for the sole purpose of mining them. The State of Alaska was fully aware of this purpose, accepted the money for it, then USACE repeatedly denied the permit to IPOP to mine said claims for the past four years. IPOP has the right to mine its lawfully purchased claims as provisioned in the State Constitution. The IPOP operation is consistent with applicable laws and regulations and has provided everything USACE has required of them; therefore, from a legal standpoint the permits must be issued to them. I question the integrity of accepting money and holding on to it while disallowing the activity for which it was paid.

USACE has an additional responsibility to balance the advantages and the disadvantages of this project. These matters may be physical, such as tons of gold production or they can be incorporeal, such as environmental impact. An informed, forthright assessment of this project has revealed that the advantages are abundant, while disadvantages are unequivocally nonexistent.

This mining project will produce gold in very significant amounts. Conservatively, core samples indicate that it will in all probability, produce well over 100,000 troy ounces of gold per season. Alaska will receive 3% of this in royalties. The royalty alone will be instrumental as a solution to Alaska's present budget shortfall. IPOP partners will pay income taxes to the United States Treasury on their portion of the income. This would be \$50 million per year or more for the federal government. Nome will receive sales taxes and tourism from the partners, and local businesses will benefit from selling fuel and supplies to IPOP.

The area IPOP proposes to mine is an inland waterway. It is very seldom used of for subsistence by some local area residents. The complete area of these particular inland waters is 15,000 acres. IPOP intends to mine 20 acres per season. This is a negligible portion of the total available area, which will indisputably have no effect on subsistence usage, although we are also aware that subsistence usage on our claims is essentially nonexistent.

IPOP will use methods causing no desecration to the environment and will not use any chemicals for mining. The dredge will simply vacuum up water and sand and then the gold will be separated from the sand using only gravity. The water and sand are then returned to the waterway where the sand is deposited into the trench that has been produced by the dredge. IPOP will use sonar and computer assistance to restore the floor to its original condition.

IPOP has the equipment to implement this project safely and without causing perpetual environmental injury. All equipment utilized is insulated for noise reduction. The low noise level is no louder than the sound from the nearby road on the barrier islands.

As I stated, I am one of roughly 150 IPOP limited partners and I assure you that we have the means and ability to make this project a preeminent success. IPOP and its partners, as defined by the SEC in Securities Act Rule 501(a), are accredited investors. Aggregately, we manage over \$500 million in assets and possess the finances to make this endeavor a success.

IPOP appreciates the magnitude of this project and feels privileged to be a factor in the recovery of the Alaska economy. IPOP has a pivotal obligation to create wealth and opportunities, not only for Alaska, but for our nation as well. In addition, many of the partners are professional industrialists who possess the experience conducive to this project.

It is essential that IPOP be granted the permits to begin operation forthwith. There are no disadvantages, but is very advantageous for the great state of Alaska and the great citizens of the United States of America.

Very truly yours,

K Barreira, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am writing to you to ask you to support the immediate issuance of the IPOP mining permit. I am a limited partner in the operation, who, along with 150+ limited partners, has been waiting over 4 years for the Individual Permit to mine our claims. The timing is now paramount. Royalty tax alone will provide Alaska with much needed funds to help replace dwindling oil revenue and to soften the blow that Covid-19 has dealt to tourism and the overall economy. Governor Dunleavy was forced to make some very difficult decisions when he had to trim the budget. It is extremely likely that none of that would have had to happen had we been mining and feeding millions to the state.

IPOP has been compliant in responding to every concern and request for the last 4 years, all the while being an outstanding contributor to local business and taxes and a charitable force in the community we are closest to, Nome. With that being said, I am hard-pressed to understand why the fairly straight-forward steps in this permitting process have taken so long to administer by the Corps.

Nevertheless, here we are today at the final stage, where we have been for years.

After an unreasonable period of time, IPOP—was at last issued long awaited permits to do so—has completed the required studies requested by the ACE to address and disprove the following public concerns:

1. the widespread existence of eelgrass—less than 1 acre found within 600 acres
2. lingering turbidity in the water disturbing fish movement—mitigated by use of the Army Corp's approved method; a double turbidity curtain

Other concerns submitted in **previous** public comment periods which can be proven false or wildly exaggerated based on the **facts** are the following:

1. Widespread and significant subsistence use—public records show from zero-6 subsistence permits listed in that area. Even if the entire area were used, IPOP's operation is limited to approximately 20 acres. This does not infringe significantly on use. That leaves 99.9% of the area to use.
2. Noise pollution adversely affecting wildlife. IPOP has taken every step in its custom equipment design to insulate and dampen decibel levels to within accepted published safe parameters for wildlife.
3. The Channel will be permanently altered. Again, from the beginning stages of our project IPOP has designed our equipment with full restoration/reclamation as its standard, using state-of-the-art sonar to map the bottom, and redistribute material to its original state.

I'll close by stating that IPOP and its backers have been urging the ACE to study the science and data provided and approve the mining permits for IPOP, yet here we remain, with no permit to mine our claims. I believe we have proven our good intent, the financial boom we will bring to Alaska, our high standards of operation and science-based findings.

Thank you,

K Brown, IPOP LLC Backer

*cc:*

*- IPOP, LLC*

*- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law*

*- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP*

*- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I would like to offer my thoughts in the consideration of the approval of the IPOP permit for the dredge mining of gold in the Bonanza Channel, and request your support of the permit approval so IPOP can mine their claims. I don't believe any forthright permitting process would ever take 4 years – but this has been far from forthright on the USACE end of things.

Based on my knowledge of this operation, along with the experience of the general partners and crew, the leading edge technology employed, and commitment to the well-being of the environment and the surrounding community at large - I believe IPOP's operation will create a supreme situation for Alaska.

IPOP most certainly is not a fly-by-night operation. IPOP management has extensively experienced dredging experts in shallow water environments, and experts coming from several generations of gold mining. I am familiar with a number of IPOP's limited partners and they are not a giant conglomerate consisting of impersonal numbered personnel. They are a group of individual, hard working taxpaying citizens who came together behind an expert management team to join a successful mining operation.

IPOP is successful in a number of ways, not solely monetarily. That being said, with the proven gold reserves discovered within their claims, IPOP and its partnership will be very comfortable. The gold will produce a revenue Alaska desperately needs now, and in the future to replace the plummeted oil prices and decline in the other industries due to the Covid disaster.

IPOP is also successful environmentally. The technology and construction of the custom equipment, built by the top dredge builder in the country, is designed to ensure safe, quiet operations. On board sonar mapping will allow them to map the bottom for a reclamation process that leaves the channel in its original condition. IPOP can move depths of material efficiently which allows their footprint to be small, and will utilize a turbidity curtain as the USACE does to mitigate plume disturbance.

IPOP has contributed millions of dollars to the local economy and performed extensive studies to assuage the concerns of local populations. IPOP has satisfied the requirements of a clean, safe operation that will be very profitable for Alaska.

Sincerely,  
K Emerson, IPOP LLC Backer

cc:  
- IPOP, LLC  
- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law  
- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP  
- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am a backer in the IPOP dredge mining operation and wish to convey my plea to you for assistance in obtaining approval and issuance of a permit to mine our claims in the Bonanza Channel this season of the year 2021.

The US ACE has been given assurances year after, that IPOP will adhere to the standards expected of all miners in Alaska and the United States of America. I have personally reviewed the Permit Application and I am well aware that the US ACE has thoroughly examined IPOP's pending operations. IPOP appears to be compliant with all mandates, including peremptory mandates issued by US ACE which are distinctly non-compliant with a current presidential order issued in June 2020, which to my knowledge, has not been overturned.

I am fully aware of the millions of dollars IPOP has invested in Nome, with some very large charitable contributions to Nome groups and residents as well. The objections from some of the Nome citizens to our project notwithstanding, not one of them felt strongly enough to return the money IPOP has contributed, but rather energetically receive it. IPOP is a benevolent group with proof of its generosity to the community. IPOP is supported by the Chamber of Commerce, who is supportive of this project. IPOP has already paid close to hundreds of thousands of dollars to local native tribe members for their assistance in our upcoming operations. IPOP will undoubtedly pay much more to many others in the future, once it commences mining operations.

IPOP has proven that there is a staggering amount of gold on its claims and will press forward to go mining, as its mining rights are evident. It is well known to IPOP and all agencies involved with issuance of the permits they seek that there is a vast amount of gold on the Seward Peninsula, if one has done their research and reviewed their findings. IPOP legally procured Alaska state mining claims and has indisputable constitutional rights to mine them. Of course IPOP must comply with mitigating effects on the environment, which has been completed each and every time it has been demanded. Alaska is making sure of that as well but there are millions of dollars of natural resource wealth for the State in its waters.



Alaska has been severely impacted by the economic effects of COVID-19. President Donald J. Trump wanted miners to mine, to facilitate the economic recovery of Alaska, as evidenced by his presidential order in June of last year. Governor Michael J. Dunleavy wants miners to mine, to facilitate the economic recovery of Alaska, as evidenced by his statement 4 years ago and again in June of last year, that Alaska is open for business, come to Alaska and mine. Jobs are needed and tax paying entities need to pay taxes to pay those that need help, Alaska needs the 3% royalty from IPOP.

Thank you for any assistance you can provide.

K. Kornburger, IPOP LLC Backer

*cc:*

*- IPOP, LLC*

*- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law*

*- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP*

*- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

As a U.S. citizen and a limited partner in IPOP, I am very much in favor of a permit for IPOP. Considering all IPOP has done for Alaska, not only in complying with all the testing and following of all the protocols, IPOP has spent over \$3 million on the state, donated to number of noteworthy charities and deserves to be in the water mining gold and helping to better Alaska in the following ways:

- IPOP is sitting on an abundance of gold. As you are well aware, 3% of that revenue goes to Alaska, IPOP's royalty partner, which will create the potential to impact the state and people in a very positive and life changing way, by helping stimulate and grow its economy, which in turn will also help the people of Alaska.
- The country will benefit from this revenue, as IPOP has upward of 140 limited partners who reside in various state's throughout the country; all of whom will pay state and federal taxes on the income.
- Nome commerce will greatly benefit local businesses in a number of ways.
- IPOP is very proud of the intensive care that has been taken to leave as little of an environmental footprint as possible with *two* over-sized turbidity curtains keeping all the dredging sediment contained as well as not damaging or harming any protected wildlife or plant life.
- IPOP's dredges, with their special centrifuges will extract environmental toxins (if any) while extracting the gold.

IPOP has proven itself time and time again, to be a responsible, a reputable company that has been, and will continue to be, not only generous but friendly to the environment. Please issue IPOP its permits so mining can commence and start changing the economy and the lives of the Alaskan people for the better.

Thank you.

K Reeder

IPOP Limited Partner and Supporter

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

The purpose of this letter is to ask for your assistance in the IPOP dredge mining project in the Bonanza Channel. I am asking you to help IPOP in any way you are able get the approval needed for the permits required to begin dredging in the Bonanza Channel. This project can produce tremendous benefits for Nome and for Alaska. This is especially important due to the ongoing health crisis. IPOP can create jobs. IPOP can pay taxes. IPOP can produce wealth.

The various limited partners are all very serious individuals. We are all accredited investors possessing a combined net worth of well over \$1 Billion. We have the finances to make this project a success. In addition, the partners have a vast amount of knowledge and experience that is applicable to this project. We are law-abiding citizens, tax payers and job creators. IPOP has the means to make this project succeed; however, we have been trying to do just that for over 4 years, to no avail. Imagine how it looks to other potential miners who are considering purchasing claims, to see a company who has purchased claims and after 5 years and millions of dollars expense in equipment, scientific studies, fees, salaries, charitable donations, lease payments on their claims, etc., still aren't allowed to mine their claims.

There is a large amount of gold present in the sands of the Bonanza Channel. IPOP presents supporting evidence for this in the permit application. Many of the partners believe these sands could be as rich as the sands of the Nome beaches during the 1898 gold rush. This will provide royalties and taxes to Alaska and income taxes to the federal government. The limited partners conservatively estimate that IPOP can produce 100,000 troy ounces of gold per season.

IPOP will have a small footprint in the area. Their calculations predict that the dredge can process the sands from roughly 20 acres per mining season. This is a very small portion of the 15,000 acres contained within the Safety Sound & Bonanza Channel area. There will be no effect upon the use of the area for subsistence, as proven with permit records submitted to the Corps. In addition, IPOP expects to be able to return the bottom profile to nearly its original condition, if not better, using sonar and computer mapping. IPOP will not cause lasting harm to the environment and IPOP will not add any chemicals to the water. Gravity alone is used to separate gold from sand.

A double turbidity curtain will be used to enclose completely the area being dredged. No fish, birds, or animals will be harmed. All of the equipment to be used has the best sound reduction currently available.

IPOP has very rigorous hiring standards with a zero-tolerance policy towards drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. All potential employees are given a criminal background check. Several IPOP employees are veterans. IPOP employees will not cause any problems with the local citizens. IPOP estimates that this project will create two dozen high paying seasonal jobs.

Several false objections have been raised against this project, generated predominantly by Native Tribes and unfortunately, IPOP's USACE Project Manager prior to her reassignment, and she's still at it. It has been claimed that there is eelgrass present in the area IPOP proposes to dredge. This is false. IPOP has employed a marine biologist to conduct an extensive survey of the area. In roughly 600 acres surveyed, he found one patch of eelgrass that measured roughly 200' by 200'. That is less than one acre. It has also been claimed that dredging will create a turbidity plume that will prevent fish from reaching their spawning areas. This is also false. There is almost no current in this area of the channel. IPOP has measured the value of the current at less than 0.5 ft per second. In addition, IPOP has agreed to utilize a turbidity curtain to contain turbidity. They have tested this and shown that it works perfectly. Turbidity is a non-issue. It has been claimed that IPOP will interfere with subsistence fishing and hunting, and other activities such as birdwatching and berry picking. This is not only false, but these fears are based on the lies they have been told by aforementioned former USACE project manager. These are not accusations against the USACE employee, they are statements of fact that are completely verifiable.

IPOP has listened to the objections to this project and has addressed these concerns with testing and scientifically supported data. Concerns regarding turbidity, eelgrass, noise, subsistence, etc. have all been identified and shown to be either false or minor.

The CoVid-19 crisis and ensuing economic disaster has taken a toll on tax revenues and placed much greater demand on government funding for various programs and subsidies. This is a catastrophe waiting to happen. These trends can only be stopped by individuals and companies stepping forward with new sources of revenue. IPOP can help with this.

I am confident the Corps should have granted the permits that IPOP needs to begin mining, years ago. Please help us.

Respectfully,

K. Sanchez, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am a partner in IPOPOP, LLC, a gold mining company with nearly 3,000 acres of claims in the Bonanza Channel. IPOPOP has been seeking the Individual Permit for over 4 years, to of course mine our claims, providing everything the USACE has requested and required, yet no permits have been issued. I am asking for your help.

There have been numerous claims raised in objection to the IPOPOP project. I am quite familiar with the concerns of the local population and would like to address them individually below.

With such numerous opinions, misperceptions, and concerns circulating, it is important to zero in on these facts:

1. The tribes opposing the project own some of the largest mines in the world, and are making millions mining them. The hypocrisy alone is overtly conspicuous.
2. Alaska will receive a 3% royalty fee from IPOPOP every year, for years to come
3. Alaska desperately needs this project to help its failing economy
4. There is in fact significant gold on IPOPOP claims, as proven with core samples.
5. IPOPOP is environmentally friendly, employing no chemicals, using gravity to separate sands from gold
6. There is next to no presence of eelgrass on IPOPOP claims, despite false claims to the contrary
7. There is no subsistence activity on IPOPOP claims and hasn't been for at least the five years I have witnessed
8. IPOPOP pays taxes
9. IPOPOP creates jobs
10. IPOPOP benefits the economy
11. USACE has obstructed IPOPOP's permit for at least 4 years
12. Alaska State Constitution grants IPOPOP the right to mine, as we are all citizens of the United States
13. There is absolutely no reason to withhold a permit any longer from IPOPOP

IPOP been guided by the environmental standards set forth by the federal and state government to operate in a manner that mitigates alleged damage to the environment.

I am aware that there has not been a project in Alaska in the last 50 years that hasn't always received very vocal opposition always including the majority of the tribes opposition, yet they are mining.

I am confident that the Corps is duty bound to cease pandering to the fear peddling and inform locals of the factual realities, as the Corps supports dredging all the United States for its own needs and desires. This proves you can dredge safely as the Corps writes in all of its own Permit Applications. Certainly, it can help IPOP reach that level of performance.

I must appeal to your sensibilities to help in the issuance of a mining permit to IPOP urgently. It is in fact urgent to the survival of Alaska.

Respectfully,

L Fiore Limited Partner IPOP LLC

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cc:  
- IPOP, LLC  
- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law  
- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP  
- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am a backer of IPOP, in favor of the IPOP dredge mining project in the Bonanza Channel and in favor of immediate permit approval. I hereby offer my thoughts and request your assistance in helping IPOP procure the permit to mine its claims.

I see signs in my neighborhood on lawns and posted in windows that read "science is real" When I see these signs I think, that's redundant, and a colossal waste of paper, who doesn't believe science is real? Science is, in simple terms, a means to research and irrefutably confirm statements of fact. Today I find myself wishing I could post these signs in the area of Nome where IPOP claims are situated. But nobody would see them way out there, so it would still just be a waster of paper. This thought pattern led me to participate in the public comment procedure last year. Clearly, that was a big waste of time, as IPOP still doesn't have a permit for reasons unknown to anybody, including IPOP.

As IPOP has successfully affirmed their statements of fact with science, this is undoubtedly a most inconvenient truth for those protesting IPOP's mining project because it does not support their agenda. Those protesting this project have a simple agenda: stop IPOP at any cost. They have been enlightened about the scientifically proven facts of the project, yet continue their movement to obstruct the growth and progress of our nation and of Alaska - and to what end?

These people have delivered fake photographs, untrue statements about subsistence, bigotry and deceit – no science or legitimate documented evidence to substantiate their outrage, just baseless outrage. And why are they so outraged? This project will have no negative impact on them whatsoever.

As you are aware, IPOP's core sample tests have proven significant gold deposits on its claims in the Bonanza Channel. As Alaska receives a 3% royalty, this will result in IPOP's contribution to the state to be millions of dollars each year, which will considerably stimulate Alaska's failing economy. This is cause for celebration, not belligerence and rebellion.

It is for these reasons that I advocate for IPOP's project and permit to mine Alaska Bonanza Channel - because IPOP's factual account of their project is based on the redundant *real* science. IPOP has not submitted anything but science and proven, factual data.

Please do not allow biased political narratives to obstruct Alaska's economic growth and progress. Find for the science and grant IPOP a permit to mine in the 2021 season, and subsequent years. Please help if you can, to see that a fifth season doesn't go by with no permit for IPOP.

Yours truly,

LL Burke Lewis, IPOP LLC Backer

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



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1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am writing to declare my full support for the IPOP dredge mining operation and ask for your support in this operation. I am a limited partner in the IPOP dredge mining project and I care about the economic recovery of the country.

I know that most every mining, drilling or pipeline operation proposed in Alaska has had vocal opposition. My grandfather worked on the pipeline, and back then, it was one of the most talked about items in the news, even outside of Alaska. IPOP probably would have been one of those projects that I would have initially jumped on the environmental bandwagon against without knowing all the facts. I pride myself in the fact that I do my homework, especially if I believe it is about harming our environment; however, I also take pride in believing science and changing my views if I am disproven.

What I have learned in my self assigned “homework” is that not all mining operations are harmful to the environment – at least not this one. I have seen a number of negative statements about the project in Nome media outlets, but surprisingly they were coming from none other than our very own [now former] USACE Project Manager. I found her comments about the project was overseeing at the time, unseemly to say the least. I am well aware that as a USACE employee she is required to be unbiased; however, she made it very clear that she was far from it. Her public comments looked like an overt attempt to sway public opinion to oppose the project. The individuals she successfully swayed to oppose IPOP have not, to my knowledge, provided any factual or scientific data supporting their position. I haven’t found a single statement about the financial future of Nome and Alaska, that IPOP will greatly assist in the recovery of. I also haven’t seen anything about the destructive operations such as one of the most toxic operations in the nation, the Alaska Native owned and operated Red Dog mine.

I am certain that the US Army Corps of Engineers is aware that dredging can be done safely, as the Corps conducts dredging operations nationwide, and has defended these operations with science in all of its own Permit Applications. It is one of the many reasons that I find IPOP's plan of operation to satisfy both the public objections and the Corp's and State Agencies' requirements.

After viewing and analyzing the data IPOP has supplied in response to my request, I believe that should be satisfy any doubt as to whether or not IPOP provides a safe, clean mining operation that will bring huge amounts of revenue to the state of Alaska and in turn, its citizens.

I am requesting intervention on your part to put an end to this endless and fruitless quest for a dredge mining permit, get IPOP in the water mining and witness the benefit to Alaska.

Sincerely,

L Sepe – Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am writing to you regarding a permit for the IPOP dredge mining project and I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts on the proposed IPOP mining project. As a limited partner in the IPOP dredge mining project, I am concerned about my personal loss of revenue, as well as the loss to Alaska, which is millions.

No harmful effect on local fish/wildlife: the water in the intended dredge area averages about 1.8 feet. Studies confirm the water current velocity is minimal, less than 0.5 mph. Per data on the sand coarseness, the greatest settling distance for the re-deposited fine material would be 20 feet. As an additional turbidity mitigating factor, IPOP will deploy double-curtain containment technology, as has been repeatedly accepted by the USACE for operations across the United States.

I would never have chosen to get involved in an operation that did not respect the land and water that this IPOP project does. The talented and experienced engineers and other professionals have worked for years on making the dredge equipment, as well as the transportation and crew housing, as environmentally safe as possible.

As evidenced by its actions, IPOP's intention is to act as a good, considerate neighbor, participating in outreach to any local and/or historical users of the Bonanza Channel. IPOP is a Chamber of Commerce member and has contributed approximately \$3 million to Alaska businesses and charities. IPOP operations have no need and will not cross Native Lands in or out of the project site; the project is limited to State lands and water. As noted in IPOP's application, "The latest published version of the AHRS (Alaska Heritage Resources Survey) has been consulted for the presence or absence of historic properties, including those listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. There are no cultural resources in the permit area or within the vicinity of the permit area."

For the statements that I have listed above I feel that IPOP should be allowed to proceed with the mining of gold in the Bonanza Channel. I appreciate all the work that has gone in this process with all agency involved, but feel at this time we have meet all expectations that have been addressed and would like to proceed for the benefit of both IPOP, the citizens of Nome as well as the State of Alaska. Four years is an unreasonable period of time for a permit process that has proven itself in every possible manner.

Sincerely,

L Sheridan Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 115526  
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Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I want to express my support of the IPOP, LLC gold mining project and the permit to mine its claims in the Bonanza Channel/Safety Sound Inland Waterway.

As an informed person and a backer of the IPOP dredge mining project, I am well aware of the protestations, misperceptions, “concerns” and even outright lies circulating among some of the local population, including some native tribes. I believe wholeheartedly that IPOP has gone well above and beyond the minimum requirements to comply with requests from all agencies to provide substantiated data to dispel these rumors and concerns.

It is falsely alleged that IPOP will discharge pollutants. The truth is, the IPOP dredging operation uses only suction and gravity and uses no chemicals nor deposits any additional material back into the channel.

It is falsely alleged that eelgrass is rife throughout IPOP mining claims. The truth is, vegetation studies IPOP performed at the request of the Corps show its presence in less than 1 acre in all IPOP claims and that this little patch of eelgrass causes no interference with the ecosystem of the waters. Factually, eelgrass is the most abundant sea grass on the coast of Alaska (per Peter C McRoy, PhD Thesis, University of Alaska, Fairbanks).

It is falsely alleged that fish will be hindered by the presence of turbidity caused by the dredge. The truth is, although preliminary studies showed that the makeup of the sands would cause them to settle almost immediately, IPOP was quick to comply with the agency suggestion to utilize a double turbidity curtain to mitigate any concerns.

It is falsely alleged that the dredge would be loud and a disturbance to wildlife, when in fact the decibel level is markedly low due to the equipment being encased in sound attenuating enclosures.

It is falsely alleged that there will be a significant loss of subsistence use. The truth is, there are roughly 15,000 acres for subsistence use. IPOP will inhabit approximately 20 acres. That is about 1/10 of 1% and certainly not a significant impact or loss. That means that 99.99% is available for berry picking, nature walks, bird watching and subsistence hunting. The further truth is that nobody uses the area of IPOP claims for those activities and everyone knows it. There are 42 prime areas known for birdwatching, and IPOP claims are not listed among them. The area is rough and difficult to access, certainly a far cry from a lovely nature walk Mecca.

**In addition, IPOP's research showed that records for 2020-2021 Harvest and Subsistence Permits are nominal:**

**Community Harvest - NOME "0" Bonanza Channel "0"**

**Tier II Subsistence Permit - NOME "6", Bonanza Channel "0"**

**Tier I Subsistence Permit - NOME "0", Bonanza Channel "0"**

It is falsely alleged that the dredging will permanently leave tailing pilings and distort the nature of the shallows. The truth is, IPOP's state of the art sonar and re-distribution capabilities will leave the channel as it was found or more likely better.

It is falsely alleged that "There is no gold there" That was a favorite until IPOP was finally issued a permit to core (nearly 2 years after submission of the Request for Permit to the US ACE) the findings revealed even higher quantities of gold than IPOP anticipated. Now the new assertion is that "there isn't enough gold there" – also untrue.

IPOP has been compliant with all agency requests, a responsible and charitable member of The Nome Chamber of Commerce, and is poised to distribute massive amounts of revenue into the dismantled Alaska State Budget.

I urge you to assess the facts and the scientific data and not the hysterical conjecture, and assist with the issuance of the necessary permits for IPOP to mine this full season of 2021.

Thank you,

L. Walker  
IPOP LLC Backer

cc:

- *IPOP, LLC*

- *J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law*

- *James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP*

- *Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

As a U.S. citizen, I am very much in favor of a permit for IPOP. As a backer of IPOP I'm very much in favor of a permit. Considering all IPOP has done for Alaska, not only in complying with all the testing and following of all the protocols, IPOP has spent over \$3 million on the state, donated to number of noteworthy charities and deserves to be in the water mining gold and helping to better Alaska in the following ways:

- IPOP is sitting on an abundance of gold. 3% of that revenue goes to Alaska, IPOP's royalty partner, which will create the potential to impact the state and people in a very positive and life changing way, by helping stimulate and grow its economy, which in turn will also help the people of Alaska.
- The country will benefit from this revenue, as IPOP has upward of 150 limited partners who reside in various states throughout the country; all of whom will pay state and federal taxes on the income.
- Nome commerce and tourism will greatly benefit local businesses in a number of ways.
- IPOP is very proud of the extensive care that has been taken to leave as little of an environmental footprint as possible with *two* over-sized turbidity curtains keeping all the dredging sediment contained as well as not damaging or harming any protected wildlife or plant life.
- IPOP's dredges, with their special centrifuges will extract environmental toxins (if any) while extracting the gold.

IPOP has proven itself time and time again, to be a responsible, a reputable company that has been, and will continue to be, not only generous but friendly to the environment. Please help issue IPOP its permits so mining can commence and start changing the economy and the lives of the Alaskan people for the better. We have been jumping through USACE hoops for over 4 years now.

Thank you.  
L Young, IPOP LLC Backer

cc:  
- IPOP, LLC  
- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law  
- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP  
- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

This letter is a request for assistance. I am one of over 150 limited partners in the IPOP dredge mining operation in the Bonanza Channel. We have been seeking a permit to mine our claims for over 4 years without success. We have been continually faced with arbitrary delays, required to prove gold, repeated tests and studies and have spent well over a million dollars on these delays alone. IPOP's claims are rife with gold that we are proscribed from accessing by the USACE.

As a U.S. citizen, I am very disappointed in the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers for their conduct and seemingly lack of care for U. S. Citizens and for the state of Alaska. Considering all IPOP has done for Alaska, in not only complying with all the testing and following of all the protocols, IPOP has spent over \$3 million on the state, donated to number of noteworthy charities and deserves to be in the water mining gold and helping to better Alaska in the following ways:

- IPOP is sitting on an abundance of gold. 3% of that revenue goes to Alaska, IPOP's royalty partner, which will create the potential to impact the state and people in a very positive and life changing way, by helping stimulate and grow its economy, which in turn will also help the people of Alaska.
- The country will benefit from this revenue, as IPOP has upward of 150 limited partners who reside in various state's throughout the country; all of whom will pay state and federal taxes on the income.
- Nome commerce will greatly benefit local businesses and tourism in a number of ways.
- IPOP has an innovative, environmentally safe and friendly method that could change mining for generations to come.
- IPOP is very proud of the intensive care that has been taken to leave as little of an environmental footprint as possible with two over-sized turbidity curtains keeping all the dredging sediment contained as well as not damaging or harming any protected wildlife or plant life.
- IPOP's dredges, with their special centrifuges will extract environmental toxins (if any) while extracting the gold.

IPOP has proven itself time and time again, to be a responsible, a reputable company that has been, and will continue to be, not only generous but friendly to the environment. Please help us in the issuance of



IPOP permits so mining can commence and start changing the economy and the lives of the Alaskan people for the better.

Thank you.

M. A. Contriono, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:

- *IPOP, LLC*

- *J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law*

- *James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP*

- *Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

**Governor Mike Dunleavy**  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 110001  
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**Commissioner Jason Brune, ADEC**  
Department of Environmental  
Conservation  
410 Willoughby Avenue, Suite 303  
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**Senator Lisa Murkowski**  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
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**Commissioner Corri A. Feige**  
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**Kip Knudsen**  
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**Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang**  
Department of Fish and Game  
1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am a limited partner in IPOP and I'm grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to let me express my support for our project, and ask for your support and assistance in obtaining approval for our mining permit. It has been 4 years and it's time for the USACE to issue our Individual Permit so we can mine our claims.

Alaska's mineral wealth needs to be developed responsibly. Based upon my research and familiarity with IPOP's technology and their crew and founding partners' level of experience, I believe it to be such a project.

Nome Chamber of Commerce believes in IPOP. In a letter to IPOP on August 31, 2020, Paul G. Kosto, Executive Director, offered "unbiased observations" finding "IPOP's plans very socially and economically friendly to the land users to include the residents of Solomon, the fish camp owners, and those traveling in this remote region of Alaska." The letter goes on to state "As the Executive Director for the Chamber of Commerce, I am afforded the opportunity to talk to and listen to almost every business owner on a regular basis. To date, I only hear positive reviews of the business partnerships and fiscal responsibilities IPOP has had with every vendor in Nome" The letter goes on to recognize the generous contributions IPOP has made to the Nome Community Center, Nome Youth Winter Sports, the Nome Public School for various projects and the money given to the City for Fire, Ambulance and Police emergency services. Mr. Kosto was the Wildlife Trooper with the Department of Public Safety for all of Seward Peninsula for his first five years of living in Nome. He states " I patrolled the area of concern for both the State and also with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife agent. I own a camp in Council Alaska and travel on the Nome Council Highway every weekend while the road is open, and travel via snow machine all winter. From my years and years of observation, I have seen little to no fishing in the area IPOP is planning to mine." He continues to talk about migratory bird hunting in the same manner. He closes with "I am very confident IPOP and their project will be successful because of the honorable business and social practices they continue to show the many people of Nome and the region."

This permitting process has been postponed and delayed ad nauseam and taken until the third year to even allow IPOP to perform these tests and analyses due to our former project manager, Leslie Tose. Coring sample permits to prove the presence of gold were repeatedly delayed—although some would argue why Alaska would sell leases to prospect and mine and then require proof of gold before being

able to begin? The question should not be is there gold, but can you mine it safely. As it turns out, once again when IPOP was finally allowed to core, there is a proven significant amount of gold present—the royalties of which will benefit the citizens of Alaska in this most urgent time.

I am hoping the process will no longer be delayed, the data and science will prevail and permits will be issued in 2021.

Sincerely,  
M Adib, Limited Partner, IPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am writing to you with a plea for help in procuring IPOP, LLC permits after having been thwarted for over 4 years to mine our claims. I am a limited partner in IPOP, LLC and I support this project and the immediate issuance of all permits to IPOP to commence mining operations as soon as possible. The merits of this project have been proven many times over.

IPOP has been faced with extreme bias and has suffered numerous consequences from the actions of a USACE project manager (removed from IPOP project September 2020), including but not limited to participation in a Facebook campaign against the IPOP project, while possessing USACE authority to withhold the permits. This alone is a serious conflict of interest, and it doesn't end there. This was all done in the name of the USACE, which indicates complicity of the agency. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been lost due to this disreputable, unethical conduct and activity. As a matter of record, Kawarek, Inc. has been vocal about their plan to usurp IPOP claims; if the IPOP project is so destructive and evil, what were they planning to do with the mining claims? Why would they even want them? And I wonder how long it would have taken them to secure a permit under our now former project manager.

I recognize that Ms. Leslie Tose was removed from this project; however, that alone is simply not sufficient. IPOP should have been issued a permit a long time ago. Numerous public comment periods were accommodated even though it was completely contrary to a Presidential Executive Order. Then it was extended to accommodate the native tribes whose only objective is to stop IPOP from mining.

IPOP has made their objective very clear, which is to mine their claims without harming the environment or disrupting any lives (including wildlife), bring commerce to Nome, millions to Alaska and the state and federal government, prosper and thrive with their own company and partnership, and aid in the economic recovery of Alaska and the country. IPOP has proven its

ability to achieve all of their objectives by providing scientific evidence to support their assertions.

Opposition has made their objective very clear, which is to stop IPOP at any cost. They failed to prove a single assertion they made in their attempt to achieve their goals. They have provided no science, no studies, no data. The only thing they have proven, is their ability to manipulate the system, their ability to lie, and their ability to start a Facebook page. I don't believe they have even proven support, as they posted templates for people to use so they wouldn't have to spend the time writing a letter for public comment.

I believe that a review of the scientific findings provided by IPOP, the USACE should conclude that an approval of the immediate issuance of a permit is justified; however, we are now being asked again about ringed seals. We gave scientific evidence that the ringed seal does not reside on our claims. If a few are spotted there, they aren't there for long, simply resting. They reside in the wild and they will do what all wildlife does around humans - they'll move out of the way. For the record, ADFG has identified the leading cause of death is Native Tribe hunters.

Sincerely,

M. Barreira, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I would like to express my support for IPOP and this project to mine placer gold from the Bonanza Channel and ask for your help. I am one of the many IPOP backers in this project and I support the issuance of all necessary permits. Unfortunately, the USACE doesn't show signs of any intent to allow IPOP to mine its claims. I believe it is pertinent to mention that IPOP claims are on State land only – not federal, not native - **State only**.

This project is about as friendly as it gets. There is virtually no risk to the local environment. The proposed operation will only involve dredging sand and water, removing the gold, and returning the sand and water to the place from which it was removed. **No chemicals** will be used in the processing of the gold.

A double turbidity curtain will be used to enclose completely the area being dredged. No fish, birds, or animals will be harmed. Turbidity curtains are approved for use by the Corps and by the EPA in other locations. All of the equipment to be used has the best sound reduction currently available. We expect that one dredge will mine 10 to 20 acres in a season. This is a tiny fraction of the entire Safety Sound / Bonanza Channel area.

It has been stated that this area is used for subsistence hunting and fishing. I will dispute this, as the area that we will dredge per season is very small and that our effect upon any wildlife in the area will also be small. Also, the effects of weather will erase our actions in a few seasons. Additionally, public records refute the claim. Any reasonable person knows that families are not going to starve with only 14,980 acres in which to subsistence hunt, which 99.9% of the area; however, that is in fact what the native tribes are claiming, and USACE is not only complicit in this claim, there are helping them with the proper verbiage to use.

This project will produce gold in very significant amounts. Using conservative estimates, IPOP believes that it can produce well over 100,000 troy ounces of gold per season. Alaska will receive 3% of this as royalties. This will significantly impact Alaska's present budget shortfall positively. The IPOP partners will pay income taxes to the US Treasury on their portion of the income. This could be \$50 million per year or more for the federal government. Nome will receive sales taxes and tourism from the partners, and local businesses will benefit from selling fuel and supplies to IPOP.

Alaska must develop its resources to create jobs and to produce wealth and support the local, state, and federal governments. It is not feasible for everyone to receive government assistance. Someone must produce goods and services. IPOP stands ready to do its part to support these entities and the economy as a whole.

These inland waters are the property of the State of Alaska. IPOP has lawfully leased these inland waters from the State of Alaska for the purpose of mining. The economy is teetering on the brink of recession due to the disastrous CoVid-19 economic crisis. Someone has to pay taxes to pay for all the programs that people demand and someone must create jobs for those who seek work. IPOP is ready, willing, and able to accept risks and to take meaningful action to benefit the nation. IPOP's employees are carefully screened and IPOP practices strict on-site rules and regulations.

We are lawful and responsible citizens, and we will fully comply with the terms of the permit and all applicable laws. IPOP can create jobs and produce revenue for Alaska and for the federal government. I urge you to aid in the issuance of the Individual Permit to IPOP to commence mining its claims in June 2021

Sincerely,

M Bednarz, IPOP LLC Backer

cc:

- IPOP, LLC
- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law
- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP
- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune,

Please consider this letter a plea for assistance and support regarding the IPOP dredge mining operation in the Bonanza Channel. I am a limited partner on this project in favor of a mining permit for IPOP. We have been actively seeking a permit to mine our claims for 4 years. IPOP has complied with every request and requirement issued by the Army Corps of Engineers, including demands that are not required, such as coring samples to prove the presence of good and the quantity of it.

I am extremely concerned about my loss of income and revenue stream due to the prejudicial deferments directly attributable to the bias and calculated actions of the USACE. Gold prices are soaring while IPOP is jumping through hoops to accommodate the multiple demands from USACE. Many of the tests and studies IPOP has been required to perform and submit are duplicates and triplicates of previously conducted studies.

IPOP far exceeds standards of currently operating mining companies and it is unreasonable to withhold any and all permits any longer. The tactics employed against IPOP reach well beyond injury to IPOP and its partners; it extends to Nome, the United States, the State of Alaska and all citizens respectively.

Recovery of Alaska is crucial and needs to begin forthwith. The current mining season of 2021 is nearing; therefore, IPOP permits must take priority immediately in order to commence mining in June, 2021 of this season.

Any assistance you can provide is deeply appreciated.

Very truly yours,  
M Berry  
Backer of IPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOP, LLC
- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law
- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP
- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



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Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am in support of IPOP mining the Bonanza Channel and would like to ask for your support regarding this endeavor for a permit to mine.

As a United States citizen and former resident of Alaska with family members who currently reside in the state, I have tremendous concern about the current economic disaster facing all Alaskans.

Alaskans know how to live off the land while preserving its rich and abundant environment. Alaskans are strong, independent, and most importantly, resourceful. Alaska has vast wealth in industries that include fishing, lumber, and mining, which is the very reason Alaska was admitted into the union as the 49<sup>th</sup> State. Yet, much of that great wealth is going to waste because of those who have lost sight of Alaska's own ability to use its resources in ways that enable the state to prosper while protecting its ecological bounty. In Nome, there are some who simply averse to welcoming any non-native to their town. To oppose IPOP is a sharp rebuke to every true Alaskan who recognizes the importance of extracting Alaska's precious mineral resources for their own benefit while protecting the rights of every individual.

IPOP proudly stands in Alaska's great tradition of mining and wealth creation. At the same time, it has also demonstrated its commitment to protecting Alaska's natural resources. IPOP is not a threat to Alaska's waterways or natural habitat. It does not introduce any chemicals into its mining operations and will, in fact, use computer science and environmental technology to return its area of mining back to its original pristine condition.

I believe IPOPOP can become the new model for safe and environmentally sound mining practices. IPOPOP will be the testimony to Alaska's great heritage of faithfully stewarding its great natural wealth.

IPOPOP can accomplish the alleviation of the economic fear that grips our great state. IPOPOP has the potential to pump millions of dollars into Alaska's struggling economy, as recognized by most Nome business owners and the Nome Chamber of Commerce. Please do not allow Alaskans to continue suffering unnecessarily from short-sighted, uninformed people who oppose this project without knowing the facts. Many of these people have been deliberately misinformed by IPOPOP's former ACE project manager with unscrupulous intent. Allow these newly informed Alaskans rise up to the challenge, as Alaskans have always done, and show they can work and provide prosperity, not only for themselves, but for every Alaskan.

Thank you in advance for standing up for Alaska. Thank you in advance for supporting the permitting of IPOPOP to mine their claims this season for the greater good of all Alaskans.

Very truly yours,  
M Bruno

cc:

- IPOPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune,

I am writing to offer my support of the IPOP dredge mining project in the Bonanza Channel. I approve of the issuance of all permits associated with this project. I am a limited partner in the IPOP dredge mining operation, but I also know right from wrong and I possess a high level of integrity and place great importance on justice.

I have heard the emotional outbursts and objections and I have some non-emotional objections that I will address:

I object to the “question” of the presence and quantity of gold. This is not a question, it’s a ploy. Core samples were presented in the IPOP permit application. IPOP’s US Army Corps Of Engineers project manager (at the time) required IPOP to conduct coring to prove presence and quantity of gold. IPOP was and is well aware that this is not a requirement, but it was for us. She informed IPOP that this would require a permit. The following day IPOP submitted the Request for Permit to core, which the project manager buried for nearly two years before she signed it. IPOP was at a standstill for coring until then. When IPOP discovered a vast amount of gold on its cored claim, the report and findings were submitted to the Corps (as required) and almost immediately its findings were reported to native tribes and local media – **not** by IPOP. We didn’t make this public until IPOP’s permit application was posted for public comment in 2020. Clearly, there is no question of gold.

I object to a Native Tribe claiming IPOP must cross their land to access their claims – This is not confusion nor is it a claim, it’s a deliberate lie. They have seen the boundaries and the map. This was again just another ploy that IPOP’s former project manager participated in.

I object to the “concern” about the environment - This is not a concern, it’s an intentional misdirect. *IPOP does not add chemicals to the environment* and they know it. And the eelgrass issue - not an issue. In fact, IPOP has provided tangible evidence that next to no eelgrass is present in its claims. They’re “worried” about the floor – no they aren’t, they know full well that IPOP will use sonar and computer mapping to restore the dredged areas to their original form. And don’t forget about the environmental destruction the other mining companies have caused, yet USACE signed off on those permits. They’re worried about turbidity – they aren’t worried in the least, with IPOP employing a double turbidity curtain. Their only worry is that they’re unable to use that red herring any longer and they have to think up something IPOP hasn’t disproven. I’d be worried about too if I were them.

There are the handful of various individuals living in the area who have made their comments, and have been heard and considered just like everyone else. The right to mine is protected in the Alaska Constitution. It doesn’t have a preclusion for hurt feelings or if someone just doesn’t like it. *Of course not everyone is going to like it*, not everybody is ever going to like everything – they do have to accept some things in life that they won’t like.

They're up in arms about IPOP eliminating the use of these inland waters for subsistence – there is nothing to eliminate, that are hasn't been used for subsistence in years because it's too shallow. IPOP has also proven this as fact. Public records show in the 2020-2021 report, 0-6 subsistence hunting permits were applied for, 0 on or around IPOP claims, 6 in Nome.

The benefits of this project vastly outweigh any potential, unsubstantiated losses or risks. In June 2020 President Trump enacted an executive order to numerous agencies, including USACE, to bypass these tedious objections and sign off on the permits. Governor Dunleavy has made his position abundantly clear in favor of permitting for all miners who will benefit Alaska.

As IPOP is fully compliant and has debunked every erroneous claim by the opposition, I believe the Corps is obligated to grant the regulatory permits needed for this project to proceed expeditiously.

I sincerely appreciate any support or assistance you can lend on this matter.

Sincerely,  
Marilyn Clough, IPOP Limited Partner

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

As an IPOP backer, I am very much in support of this project and the issuance of all permits to commence operations this season in June 2021. I am writing to you with a request for your support and assistance with IPOP's endeavor to obtain the Individual Permit to mine its claims.

USACE has recently questioned IPOP about Ringed Seals near IPOP claims. Per the 2020 Public Notice, there are some very specific considerations in the permit decision, and it seems to me that many of these considerations have been met by IPOP. On the other hand, it seems to me that the Native Tribes opposing this project have not been held to the same standards of procedure or protocols as IPOP. I will address my thoughts and comments below as applicable:

1. CULTURAL RESOURCES: As disclosed in the PN, AHRs has been consulted for presence or absence of historic properties, including those listed in or eligible for the inclusion in the NRHP, and there no cultural resources in or in the vicinity of the permit area, including the camp area. Consultation of the AHRs constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the Corps. **The Corps has made a NO POTENTIAL TO CAUSE EFFECTS determination for the proposed project.** I should think this issue can be considered **NOT RELEVANT.**
2. ENDANGERED SPECIES: The PN, authored by USACE states that the project area is within the known or historic range of the Stellar's eider, Spectacled eider, Polar Bear, Polar Bear Critical Habitat, Beringia bearded seals, Arctic ringed seals. It goes on to state that [the Corps] is currently gathering information regarding these species. ADFG states that **Stellar's Eider** Alaska breeding population occurs in two disjunct regions, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta in western Alaska, where only a few birds may nest, and the Arctic Coastal Plain, primarily near Barrow. Almost all Steller's eiders nest in northeastern Siberia, with less than 1% of the population breeding in North America. In the winter, most of the world's Steller's eiders are found in the Alaska Peninsula and the Aleutian Islands. **Primary threat is lead poisoning from ingestion of spent shot has been a significant source of mortality in Alaska.** ADFG states that **Spectacled Eiders** nest along Arctic coasts of Alaska and Russia and on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta in Alaska. Molting areas have been found in Norton Sound and Ledyard Bay in Alaska and in Mechigmenskiy Bay and offshore waters between the Kolyma and Indigirka river deltas in Russia. **Primary threat is lead poisoning from ingestion of spent shot has been a significant source of mortality in Alaska.** ADFG states that the **Polar Bears'**

seasonal movements are driven by regional ice dynamics and can be quite extensive. Most polar bears remain with the pack ice as it recedes north during the summer melting season; however, along Alaska's Beaufort Sea coast, some polar bears also come on land to rest until shore-fast ice begins to develop along the coast in late fall and the pack ice advances south, once again providing them with a suitable platform for hunting seals. Note that IPOP claims are not at the Beaufort Sea and the primary threats are male polar bears and Alaska Native hunters. **Beringia Bearded Seals** have not been sighted in, on or around IPOP claims in at least 5 years and per ADFG, the primary threats to this species are Polar bears, killer whales, walruses, and Alaska Native hunters – mining operations were not listed. The same goes for the **Ringed Seal** on all counts including primary threats to this species are Polar bears, killer whales, walruses, and Alaska Native hunters. Please notice that, 5 out of the 5 endangered species' threats are from Native hunters, *not* from mining operations.

3. ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The PN states that the project area is within the known range of Immature Chum Salmon and that the USACE has determined the described activity may adversely affect EFH in the project area. Per ADFG, Chum salmon usually spawn at the mouth, or in the lower sections, of rivers, although in Alaska's largest river systems, some travel great distances (up to 2,000 miles to the upper Yukon River in Canada) upriver to spawn. After hatching, juvenile chum salmon spend a short time (days to weeks) in fresh water before migrating to the ocean. Once in the ocean, juvenile chum salmon remain near shore, particularly in shallow eelgrass beds, for the first several months before dispersing into the open ocean. IPOP claims are not at the River mouth; however, Colby Engstrom's claims are; his mining operation was permitted by the USACE and he is actively mining. He attempted to sell his claims to IPOP for \$635,000; however, IPOP declined the offer. Does it make you the least bit curious as to why IPOP is getting so much attention about the interference with Chum Salmon, while Mr. Engstrom's claims are far more likely to interfere with the fish? I'm not curious, he and IPOP's former USACE project manager for the last 3 years, have a close personal friendship. Additionally, chum remain near eelgrass, and IPOP has proven there is nearly no eelgrass on its claims – about one-tenth of one percent. I think the chum will be just fine.
4. TRIBAL CONSULTATION: the PN states that Tribes with protected rights or resources that could be significantly affected by a proposed federal action (e.g., a permit decision) have the right to consult with the Alaska District on a G2G basis and that the views of each of each tribe regarding protected rights and resources will be accorded due consideration in this process. It further states that the Tribes within the area potentially affected by the proposed work may participate in the decision making process regarding the protected Tribal right or resource. Native Tribes have completely failed at proving any affect whatsoever, let alone significant. IPOP has successfully proven that the Native Tribes are not affected. IPOP is not trespassing on any protected rights or resources, as its claims are on State land, not Federal, not Tribal. Just because they are attempting to take over all the land and it's resources, does not mean they can. I believe the USACE should cease pandering to this.
5. AUTHORITY: IPOP work will not affect navigable waters, as the location of IPOP claims are very shallow. This has been proven with IPOP's bathymetry tests previously submitted to ACE. IPOP has submitted evidence that it will not construct any permanent wharf, pier, dolphin, boom, weir, breakwater, bulkhead, jetty, or other structures in any port, roadstead, haven, harbor, canal, navigable river and will not excavate or fill, or in any manner to alter or modify the course, location, condition, or capacity of, any port, roadstead, haven, harbor, canal, lake, harbor of refuge, or enclosure within the limits of any breakwater, or of the channel of any navigable water. Furthermore, IPOP has proven compliance with Section 404 as applicable to this project.

I am in favor of not only this project, but *any* project that may bring some relief to any state in our great nation. I believe Alaska has been hit especially hard, with no other means of recovery that I am aware of. The economies of the United States, Alaska, and Nome will enjoy immense benefit from IPOP's mining project in the Bonanza Channel. IPOP has proven an abundance of gold present on their claims in the Bonanza Channel and the 3% royalty Alaska will receive will undoubtedly be a welcomed boost to their ailing economy. I believe this project could once again turn a depressed Nome into the boom town it was in 1899 after the 1898 Klondike miners headed to Nome for its gold.

If you have an opportunity to review the scientific data provided to the Army Corps of Engineers by IPOP, I am certain you will find the operation to be environmentally friendly, causing no injury to the environment or wildlife.

The crux of the matter is, the State of Alaska advertised the claims/leases for sale. IPOP purchased said claims/leases. The transaction was conducted for IPOP to mine their claims, and then the Corps spent the next four years denying IPOP the permit required to mine them. The Corps has asserted there was no gold on the claims, which is in essence, saying IPOP was defrauded by the State selling them useless claims to mine gold, with no gold on them. IPOP does not support this rhetoric, as we see it for what it is – a desperate attempt to stop IPOP, just as their crusade title says. IPOP has of course, proven there is in fact gold on its claims - and they have the right to mine it. The Native Tribes objecting to this project have fabricated every “reason” they have given for their objections, none of which has been proven, yet IPOP has scientifically proven all of their own reasons to issue the permit.

Again, Alaska is in serious financial trouble. Nome is in financial dire straits. I ask you to help facilitate the issuance of the Individual Permit absent any further delays.

Kind regards,  
M D'Esopo, IPOP LLC BACKER

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**Governor Mike Dunleavy**  
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**Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang**  
Department of Fish and Game  
1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am a limited partner in the IPOP dredge mining operation in the Bonanza Channel and I am asking for your help in obtaining the permit to dredge our claims. I support the IPOP mining project for a number of reasons.

I support the rights of United States citizens to mine the mineral resources of the state of Alaska. It is very important that the falsehoods be recognized as they relate to the statements of opposition to the IPOP project. Since 2017, notwithstanding with the interference of a USACE employee, IPOP has been attempting to meet with and make presentations to the tribes opposing the project. Any statement to the contrary is a blatant and deliberate lie.

IPOP has been endured delays and obstruction by USACE, who appears to be far from impartial. USACE has actively assisted the native organizations in opposition to IPOP to kill the IPOP project. It is well known in Alaska that native organizations historically oppose nearly every proposed project in Alaska involving mineral resources, as addressed by Governor Dunleavy. Since 2017, a number of USACE guidelines and regulations have been violated by IPOP's USACE [former] project manager. Meanwhile, IPOP has proven that it has no intention of abandoning its massive gold discovery in the Bonanza channel, which will provide hundreds of millions of dollars to Alaska. IPOP is a faith and charity based as an operation. IPOP has spent millions in town and has made numerous charitable contributions. Despite this, the local tribal organizations falsely claim that IPOP has failed at community outreach. Nothing could be further from the truth. There are certain native organizations in Nome continuing a slanderous and libelous campaign of lies and false allegations against IPOP.

IPOP is hopeful that their released scientific reports based on science and conducted at great expense, overcome the emotional playbook hysteria that seem to be present by these same organizations who use that playbook every day. It is the success of the mineral exploration in Alaska built the state, and must continue. The USACE should work with IPOP, not against it. Alaska has the mineral wealth Alaskans, as well as all Americans deserve, per the Alaska State Constitution.

M. Hancock, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



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1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am a limited partner in the IPOPOP dredge mining operation and we, as partners in this IPOPOP dredge mining operation are reaching out to you to ask for help in obtaining approval and issuance of all permits for IPOPOP to mine their claims in the Bonanza Channel.

We certainly understand and accept the due diligence and review of any permit application. Environment, historical use, and potential monetary gain for the State should absolutely be taken into account. That is what IPOPOP has always been more than willing to participate in, but was often diverted from doing, through what we observed as arbitrarily imposed delays.

IPOPOP has demonstrated the necessary technical prowess, and provided the necessary studies and mitigation plans to alleviate any environmental concerns presented both in the multiple public commentary periods and those of the Agencies charged with the Stewardship of the area.

Of course we are limited partners invested in a project which we are certain will be a lucrative venture, but we also take personal pride in the fact that part of our success will be shared with the people of Alaska, and directly help at least one of our 50 states to bounce back more quickly from the current economic setback.

The US Army Corps is in possession of the detailed application and the requested studies. IPOPOP is ready to immediately commence mining, with our equipment and crew anxiously standing by.

I sincerely hope you are able and willing to assist us, given all the evidence provided to the Corps substantiates that permit approval is more than warranted.

Thank you,

M. Laughead, Limited Partner IPOPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOPOP, LLC
- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law
- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP
- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am writing to share my thoughts on the proposed IPOP mining project and ask for help in the procurement of the permit to mine that IPOP has been seeking for the last 4 years. I disclose that I am one of well over 150 backers in the IPOP dredge mining operation seeking a permit.

IPOP has been delayed and obstructed for four years by USACE.

USACE exceeded regulatory deadlines for responses to requests to conduct work on the IPOP mining claims. This is a verifiable factual assertion.

USACE conducting IPOP opposition surveys on the phone and continues to delay and obstruct IPOP's permit to mine.

Mining has been going on in Nome for 130 years and now, all of a sudden, we are to believe that 5 endangered species have magically shown up on our claims and taken up residence. (Per USACE, Kawarek and Solomon)

IPOP was approached by Nome locals when they first arrived, offering various "deals" totaling \$22 Million. IPOP saw right through it and refused these local offerings, and the next thing IPOP knew, we had new enemies who are suddenly concerned about feeding their families without the subsistence - that is verified as nonexistent - on our claims. Thanks to the coaching of USACE through social media and news outlets.

USACE is participating in anti-IPOP surveys, petitions and raffles that are held for the locals to be motivated to write something in opposition, which is patently disgusting and behavior unbecoming of a federal agency. This is in addition to the USACE conducted the surveys from a direct line at the USACE and directing the public to ask bogus questions about issues with the IPOP project that do not exist.

To be perfectly honest, USACE should be investigated at the *very least* and IPOP should be issued the permit that has been obstructed with game-playing, bias tactics and unfair treatment against IPOP employed by USACE. I think that is the *very least* the USACE could do at this point. They know full well this permit should have been issued long ago.

Yours truly,

M. Lopez, IPOP LLC Backer

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I would like to address the permit application approval pending in the USACE office, for IPOP's request to dredge for gold in the Bonanza Channel, pursuant to its mining claims purchased from the State of Alaska in the inland waterways several years ago.

The false environmental accusations, unsuccessfully disguised as concerns, regarding eelgrass, fish spawning and dredge created, plume cloud movement have been addressed by IPOP in a number of scientific studies and observations. These studies have substantiated beyond a shadow of a doubt that there is a 200' x 200' patch of eelgrass present on 600 acres of IPOP's mining claims – 0.1% - which of course means that 99.9% of IPOP claims are eelgrass-free, fish do not spawn or appear in the Bonanza Channel and any plume generated by IPOP's mining operations are quickly dissipated and do not ever extend beyond their protective dredging curtains.

Furthermore, Native Tribe fraudulent allegations about the threat against subsistence hunting have been irrefutably validated as **100% false** by the results for 2020-2021 Tier 1 hunts, Tier 2 hunts and Community harvest logs which corroborate no such hunting threats to the Native Tribes in the Bonanza Channel region.

IPOP's operations as demonstrated will not harm the environment but instead will benefit the health of the Seward Peninsula by removing all harmful toxins (should they exist), as a result of harmful, antiquated mining operations of the past. Gravel will be separated and removed from sediments via a series of centrifuges prior to the sediment being safely returned, as originally found, in the inland waterways; therefore, should any harmful metals exist, they will be filtered out prior to returning the sand to the floor. This is an indication of IPOP's concern for the environment as well as that of the executive management and operational teams.

I respectfully request that you carefully consider my comments and support or help IPOP if you can, to obtain its due permits, There are no environmental threats or valid claims of harms to the environment or Native Tribes' livelihoods from IPOP's proposed operations, as has been confirmed with science, not deceitful outbursts.

Regards,

M Muckerman Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Daman Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

This letter is regarding the IPOP dredge mining operation permit. One of the issues with regard to IPOP's application is the extent, if any, to which the project area is employed for Native Alaskan subsistence hunting and fishing, as well as for other activities such as berry gathering and birdwatching.

On-site IPOP representatives present on multiple occasions have never witnessed hunting and fishing occurring in the areas proposed for the first five years of operations. IPOP has previously written to USACE, on November 2, 2019, submitting available lists of Tier 1 and Tier 2 subsistence harvest permits which clearly show no recipients likely to utilize the Bonanza Channel. We requested at that time that the Corps host a meeting of IPOP representatives and tribal interests to discuss steps that may be taken to address these concerns, and asked the Corps to engage a knowledgeable, independent facilitator to allow the parties to develop solutions to mitigate any documented impacts. USACE ignored the request.

During the public comment period in 2020 we observed that, consistent with the absence of any reliable documentation of such activities, and the apparent lack of any available documentation on hand and possessed by tribal entities such as Qujana BSNC, Kawarek, and Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC), these entities are, in substance, paying random people on the Internet to submit photographs and video testimony of claimed usage of the Bonanza Channel. They even established a Facebook page titled Stop IPOP: Keep Safety Safe (copy enclosed) which states:

🔗 POST PICS here for PRIZE DRAWINGS! 🔗 For residents of Bering Straits region. Multiple drawings for multiple winners!  
Details 📍 📍 📍

Follow the page, plus post photos or video in the comments to be entered to win! Prizes are \$50 gift card to AIH, Bonanza Express fuel, or Visa gift card.

MUST BE AT BONANZA or SAFETY AREA

Photos/video must be of activities at Bonanza Channel, Safety Sound, and surrounding areas. If you are posting video, you can even just be talking about your activities in that area.

ACTIVITIES

Subsistence fishing, hunting, gathering, and preparing and storing food (cutting, canning, drying, smoking), as well as birdwatching and other sustainable activities are all encouraged.

PHOTOS & VIDEO

You can post more than one picture. Video clips should be no more than 2 minutes.

TAG a FRIEND

Extra cool points if you tag a friend to challenge them to post! (Sorry no bonus entries, just cool points.)

FRIDAY, SEPT. 11

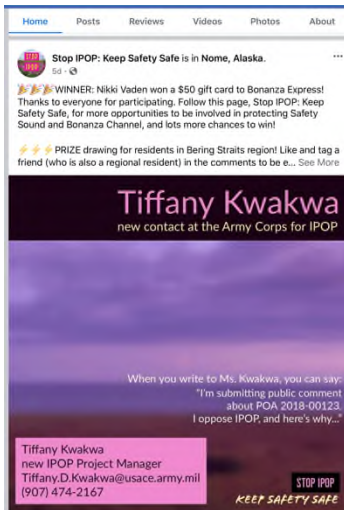
Deadline for entry on this post is Friday, Sept 11 at 11:59 pm. Drawing and winners announced on Sunday, Sept 13.

(more prize opportunities to come, too)

#### USE OF PHOTOS

By posting, you give permission to submit the photos/video as public comment on POA 2018-00123.

September 9, 2020 an update was posted announcing Nikki Vaden as the lucky winner with more chances to win (copy enclosed)



The process of paying multiple cash prizes for photographs and video seems likely to generate "evidence" that does not even involve the Bonanza Channel, and if it does involve use of the Bonanza Channel, involves use that was staged for the purpose of fabricating opposition to the project. The few photographs posted on the Facebook page we saw are nowhere near areas proposed for mining in the five-year project operations area.

We asked that the Corps disregard any "evidence" collected by this outlandish procedure unless and until accompanied by a sworn statement of authenticity from the person who took the photograph and submitted the video. It appeared that IPOP's former project manager (former as of September 4, 2020) was a participant in this endeavor, as she submitted numerous directives containing verbatim language to use when opposing the IPOP mining project. More importantly, we reiterated the request above that a meeting be held so that the Corps can come to a genuinely informed understanding of subsistence harvest and other issues, which was again ignored.

Thank you hearing my profound concerns. I ask for your support in IPOP's endeavor for a permit to mine this season, 2021.

Sincerely,

M Nguyen, IPOP Stakeholder

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter, I implore you to give credence to my opinion pertaining to mining claims on the Bonanza Channel. I advocate for the expedient issuance of all permits required to begin dredging in the Bonanza Channel to IPOP.

This project will engender tremendous benefits for Nome and for the state of Alaska. This is exceptionally important due to the ongoing Covid crisis and the negative impact it has inflicted upon our economy. IPOP creates jobs, pays taxes and produces wealth.

I have appraised all information available through extensive research from a number of various resources. Through this research I discovered a number of things. I researched potential gains and methods to be employed to achieve those gains. I am thereby convinced that IPOP can effectively develop the mineral wealth contained in these inland waters and do so without causing any harm to the local environment. IPOP has spent millions of dollars on specialized equipment. The only thing IPOP needs to continue to benefit the local economy and Alaska are the permits. It is time for action on your part.

And speaking of harm to the environment, I must question the permit issued by the USACE to the Kensington Mine, which looks like a war zone, as they have demolished acres of trees and undoubtedly wildlife as well. IPOP causes no damage, yet after three plus years, the USACE continues to oppose this project, while Kensington Mine continues to make millions and decimate the environment. Why is that not a problem? USACE also issued a permit to the Red Dog Mine, known as the most toxic mine in America (per US EPA), yet they are free to continue to rake in millions while literally poisoning their own people. That is just to name two, while IPOP – a clean, safe, nontoxic mining operation is still waiting for a permit after over 4 years.

Many false statements have been made pertaining to the Bonanza Channel area where IPOP has claims. I will address these false claims.

It has been stated that there is no gold in these inland waters. IPOP has presented core evidence which thoroughly refutes the false absence of gold assertion; there is an exorbitant amount of gold there. USACE is in possession of this irrefutable proof.

It has been maintained that there is eelgrass present on the claims. This false statement has also been disproven by an extensive survey of the area. The dominant sea grass on the claims is something more akin to a river weed and the only eelgrass is a very small patch that will not adversely affect a single fish. USACE is also in possession of this irrefutable proof.

It has been claimed that dredging in these waters will create turbidity that will prevent salmon from spawning. The water levels in this channel are very shallow and currents are very low. IPOP has completed a turbidity test that proves that turbidity will not be a problem. This is an accepted practice implemented by the US EPA and by the USACE in other parts of the country. IPOP has agreed to employ a second curtain to surround the first one to assuage the bogus fears of the USACE. I'm sure the USACE project manager was fully aware that a second curtain was unnecessary, as one curtain created no turbidity, yet IPOP immediately accommodated the "concern". The USACE project manager stated in writing that the moment she were to receive the request for the turbidity test, she would sign it without delay; yet it was two months after it was submitted to her, until she signed the permit for IPOP to perform the very test IPOP was told was required. In reality, does anyone truly believe that if one curtain created no turbidity, a second curtain would? That's like requiring proof that two blankets will be warmer than one.

It has been argued that these waters are used for subsistence hunting and fishing by Alaska natives. Not only is this simply untrue, the Safety Sound & Bonanza Channel inland water area contains roughly 15,000 acres. IPOP expects to mine 20 acres per season. Can anyone truly assert that this would be significant? I do not believe it would even be noticed, let alone be problematic. The truth is, the entire area hadn't even been noticed in years until IPOP purchased the claims and proposed to mine it. At first, they were ridiculed for thinking there was gold there. Then they proved gold and all hell broke loose. Suddenly it was touted as the prime subsistence hot spot. It's such a substandard subsistence area, even the animals don't go there for food. The area they propose to mine is not easily accessible.

IPOP has been jumping through the USACE hoops for years, and every year that goes by without a permit to mine these claims is another year of loss for not only the company but for Alaska as well.



IPOP purchased these claims, has done absolutely everything asked of them and more, IPOP should be allowed to mine. I implore you to facilitate issuance of the needed permits as soon as possible so we can start mining June 1, 2021.

Very truly yours,

M Pallotto, IPOP LLC Backer

cc:

- *IPOP, LLC*

- *J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law*

- *James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP*

- *Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

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**Department of Environmental**  
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Department of Fish and Game  
1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune,

I am an IPOP backer and am writing to you to convey my support and ask for your support and participation for the IPOP dredge mining operation in the Bonanza Channel, in favor of a permit for IPOP to commence dredge mining June 1, 2021.

IPOP has the equipment to implement this project safely, without causing perpetual environmental injury.

There are individuals residing in and around Nome who object to this project; however, their objections lack foundation. Their concerns have been addressed; however, objections lacking foundation do not have the power to stop this project.

The Constitution of Alaska provides for the right to mine claims, and IPOP has lawfully purchased leases on Bonanza Channel inland waters from the State of Alaska for the sole purpose of mining. The State of Alaska was fully aware of this purpose, happily accepted the money for it; subsequently, the USACE spent the next four years denying IPOP the permit to mine their claims. Again, *IPOP has the right to mine its lawfully purchased claims as provisioned in the State Constitution*. The IPOP operation is consistent with applicable laws and regulations and has provided everything the agencies have required of them; therefore, from a legal standpoint the permits must be issued.

I believe that in your ADEC Commissioner position you have a responsibility to balance the advantages and the disadvantages of this project fairly and without bias. The advantages have been proven by IPOP with science. As you may be aware,

environmental impact, eelgrass, turbidity, noise, and subsistence objections have all been proven as non-issues, again, with data and science. A forthright assessment of this project has revealed that the advantages are abundant, while disadvantages are unequivocally nonexistent.

This dredge mining project will produce gold in supremely significant amounts. Employing conservative estimates, IPOPOP gives credence to core samples indicating that it will in all probability, produce in excess of 100,000 troy ounces of gold per season. Alaska will receive 3% of this as royalties. The royalty alone will be instrumental as a solution to Alaska's present budget shortfall. IPOPOP partners will pay income taxes to the United States Treasury on their portion of the income. This could be \$50 million per year or more for the federal government. Nome will receive sales taxes and tourism from the partners, and local businesses will benefit from selling fuel and supplies to IPOPOP.

The area IPOPOP proposes to mine is an inland waterway. The subsistence usage claim by some local area residents is simply ridiculous. The complete area of these particular inland waters is 15,000 acres, 20 of which IPOPOP intends to mine season; that comes to 1/10<sup>th</sup> of 1%, meaning that they have 99.9% of the area to use for subsistence, which will indisputably have absolutely no affect on subsistent usage.

IPOPOP will employ methods causing no desecration to the environment, nor will it use any chemicals for mining. The dredge will simply vacuum up water and sand and then the gold will be separated from the sand using only gravity. The water and sand are then returned to the waterway where the sand is deposited into the trench that has been produced by the dredge. IPOPOP will use sonar and computer assistance to restore the floor to its original condition. All equipment utilized is insulated for noise reduction; therefore, the noise level is no louder than the sound from the nearby road on the barrier islands.

I am one of approximately 150+ IPOPOP limited partners and am fully confident that IPOPOP has the means and ability to make this project a preeminent success. IPOPOP and its partners, as defined by the SEC in Securities Act Rule 501(a), are accredited investors. Aggregately, we manage over \$500 million in assets and possess the finances to make this endeavor a success.

IPOPOP acknowledges the magnitude of this project and feels privileged to be a factor in the recovery of the Alaska economy. IPOPOP has a pivotal obligation to create wealth and

opportunities, not only for Alaska, but for our nation as well. In addition, many of the limited partners are professional industrialists who possess the experience conducive to this project.

It is essential that IPOP be granted the permits to begin operation forthwith. There are no disadvantages, yet very advantageous for the great state of Alaska and the great citizens of the United States of America.

I thank you for your time and consideration of this momentous issue. I also want to ask you to consider the reasons for a need for Senator Murkowski's recently introduced bill to ramp up domestic critical mineral supply chain. IPOP has spent the last 4 years jumping through the USACE hoops and still doesn't have a permit to mine its claims.

Very truly yours,

M Rauch  
IPOP Limited Partner

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
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Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

COMMISSIONER BRUNE: I am writing to ask for support and help in the approval and procurement of the IPOP permit to suction dredge the Bonanza Channel. There are some erroneous objections to this project I have addressed below.

**EELGRASS:** IPOP has submitted this scientific study proving 1/10<sup>th</sup> of 1% of 1 acre of eelgrass is present within 600 acres. Eelgrass is an absolute nonissue.

**SUBSISTENCE:** Based upon government permit records regarding subsistence usage, there have been a total of 0-6 permits issued in the area, 0 on IPOP claims, 6 in Nome. The IPOP crew has observed no subsistence, berry picking, birdwatching, or any other activity whatsoever on IPOP claims, spanning the last 5 years. Subsistence is an absolute nonissue.

**NATIVE TRIBES:** The native tribes opposing the IPOP project are making millions mining their own mines, which are some of the largest and most toxic mines in the world. The hypocrisy of their opposition to IPOP is shameful.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** There were 5 endangered species listed by USACE, purported to habituate on IPOP claims in a Nome Nugget interview. The species listed and purported to have been sighted on the claims are very unlikely to exist in that area, per ADFG. Additionally, the opposition can't seem to settle on a cause – they claim to use the area for subsistence, yet they're worried about endangered species? A suction dredge mining operation is not listed as any threat to these species; however, lead poisoning and Native hunters are (per ADFG). Again, these species are not killed on IPOP sites, they are killed in other areas. Endangered species is an absolute nonissue.

**ENVIRONMENT:** IPOP has proven its operation to be environmentally friendly, employing no chemicals, using gravity to separate sand and gravel from gold, then returned to the floor, less the gold and any potential contaminants if contained within the dredge. Environmental harm is an absolute nonissue.

**GOLD:** Whether there is or is not gold present on IPOP claims is irrelevant. Nevertheless, abundant gold has been proven with core samples submitted to the USACE, as required by USACE. Gold presence is an absolute nonissue.

**ECONOMY:** Opposition claims that birdwatching helps Nome commerce. As a royalty partner, Alaska will receive a 3% royalty fee from IPOP revenues every year and for future generations.

IPOP creates jobs, pays taxes, escalates commerce, contributes to a number of local charities and has received unsolicited, unbiased support from the Nome Chamber of Commerce. Economic intrusion is an absolute nonissue.

**INVALID CLAIMS:** This is a serious accusation against the State agencies. This objection is accusing the State of fraud and I would hope the USACE would view this objection for what is – desperately grasping at straws. Desperate measures such as these are typically employed when there is no real substance to justify the argument. IPOP does not support this theory of invalid claims and will continue to preserve the reputation of the State agencies on this matter. Invalid claims is an absolute nonissue and a despicable strategy.

**IPOP HAS SUBMITTED SCIENCE AND EVIDENCE:** The claim to the contrary could not be farther from the truth. The USACE is in possession of scientific studies, data collection, core samples and more submitted to the agency by IPOP. The truth is that the opposition has submitted no science or evidence. The science and evidence tactic from opposition is an absolute nonissue.

Protests from those opposing this project, stating that IPOP will interfere with longstanding traditions of their ancestors and of Alaskans as a whole is ironic. The irony of this statement is that not to permit IPOP stands against Alaska’s multigenerational tradition of mining, and would be against its own constitution. There hasn’t been a project in Alaska in the last 50 years I’m aware of that hasn’t received vocal opposition, including opposition from the native tribes, yet permits are granted.

In summary, Alaska desperately needs this project to help its flailing economy and there is no due cause to withhold a permit from IPOP any longer. IPOP has submitted proof refuting all objections against this project, supporting IPOP’s right to be granted a permit; therefore, I ask that you to help IPOP obtain a permit to commence mining in June, 2021.

Thank you for any assistance you can offer

Best regards,

M. Schwartz, IPOP LLC Backer

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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**Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang**  
Department of Fish and Game  
1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am 100% for IPOP and I want to keep this as simple as possible. I don't want to bog you down with more to do than what you already must have on your plate; however, I would like to ask for your support in this project and the issuance of the required permits.

IPOP will not cause any harm to the land or waters  
IPOP will not cause harm to the environment  
IPOP will not create turbidity  
IPOP has proven less than one acre of eelgrass – a 200' x 200' patch on over 600 acres (.015%)  
IPOP will not affect subsistence hunting and fishing  
IPOP can bring well over \$500 Million to Alaska with a 3% royalty  
IPOP has proven significant gold on its claims  
IPOP has incurred over \$1 Million in additional expense attributable to Leslie Tose  
IPOP and its partners have lost millions due to Leslie Tose, USACE  
ALASKA has lost millions due to Leslie Tose, USACE  
IPOP has scientifically proven their assertions  
OPPOSITION only has emotional outbursts and false accusations  
ALASKA sold IPOP the claims to mine, for the sole purpose of mining  
OPPOSING Tribes are fully aware that IPOP does not interfere with subsistence  
OPPOSITION has been fed bogus objections to submit as public comment by Leslie Tose  
IPOP has the constitutional right to mine its claims

We currently live in a world of guilt, anger and destruction. Hopefully that will change, but whether it does or doesn't, people cannot live a healthy life while surrounded by negativity and constant attack. The people need something positive and good coming their way to mitigate the negative and the bad. IPOP is ready and able to mine immediately, which will accomplish more than glee for the partners. It will help get Alaska out of debt and back to prosperity.

Alaska has lost enough. IPOP has lost enough. I implore you to help facilitate the issuance of the permit to IPOP right away so mining can begin this season and enjoy watching Alaska thrive.

M Todd Lince, IPOP LLC Backer

cc:  
- IPOP, LLC  
- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law  
- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP  
- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I support the issuance of all required permits for IPOP. I am very frustrated that after 4 years and millions of dollars out of IPOP's pocket, the US ACE is still playing games, withholding the permit and bringing harm to the state and its struggling citizens. I am an IPOP backer possessing an interest in the economy and the country. Citizens of the United States are experiencing an economic crisis from the effects of Covid-19. Alaska has been labeled an "economic disaster" and the Corps is still playing games and wielding their power over the state.

Myself along with many others including IPOP are aggrieved by the public comments made by an employee of the Corps, IPOP's former project manager, in the Nome Nugget and appeal to you that these actions be investigated for breach of the standards of ethical conduct for employees of the Executive Branch. 5 C.F.R. § 2635.101(b)(8), requires employees to "act impartially and not give preferential treatment to any private organization or individual violations of the basic obligation of public service". § 2635.101(b)(10), mandates "Employees shall not engage in outside employment or activities, including seeking or negotiating for employment, that conflict with official Government duties and responsibilities."

This Corps employee, as reported in the Nome Nugget, communicated via email with the Nome Nugget, immediately after she was removed from the IPOP project. She made statements that seemingly represent a biased, prejudicial attempt to encourage opposition to the IPOP project. She offers advice about how to make an "effective comment". She states, "For example, if a person wanted to comment on subsistence or natural resources, an effective comment might talk about the effects of the project in terms of type of habitat altered, animal displaced, or increase in noise or disturbance, and how it might affect animals". This is not only outrageous, it is a blatant attempt to once again mislead the public. From a legal standpoint this behavior is considered leading a witness and I should hope the USACE upholds a strict standard as well.

It is dishonorable that an employee of the US Army Corps of Engineers attacks the sufficiency of IPOP's core drilling effort. She asks if "experienced miners" find the efforts "sufficient," and whether "IPOP's sampling and chain of custody methods are defensible and consistent with industry standards," and a number of additional mining related questions. Not only does this imply that IPOP is a completely inept company, it leads the reader to believe that they do not maintain proper chain of custody. It is my understanding that this does not even fall under Corps regulation.

It is unacceptable behavior for a USACE employee who is no longer even assigned to the project to make public accusations that IPOP is lying about the gold it has found, in a context where the record shows a solid geological basis for project profitability at well bellow sampled levels. To IPOP's knowledge, no other suction dredge miners in Alaska have been required to conduct any core sampling at all, making the notion of



any "industry standard" inane. Furthermore, the sole reason IPOP doesn't have more core samples currently is because this employee sat on IPOP's application to do more core sampling all winter until the ice melted.

The Corps incites fear among the locals with outrageous statements such as, "Tell [the Corps] how the project would affect your subsistence activities. Let us know how many people you feed with your efforts? These are some of the questions the Corps is interested in." Please pay attention to who is interested in these things, according to the interviewee. Many of these statements are being used on a Facebook site identified as "Stop IPOP". It has been proven by a number of IPOP partners that this USACE employee is involved in this site and campaign, using USACE resources to conduct an opposition survey telephonically during work hours from her direct line at the USACE.

I am opposed to any person or entity opposed to recovery from this crisis by refusing assistance. I request that an official reprimand be issued, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 3601.108, any further statements made about IPOP or its project be accompanied by a statement expressly stating that she has not been authorized by appropriate agency authority to present that material as the agency's position and that the views presented are those of the speaker or author and do not necessarily represent the views of the agency. In addition I ask that her email and phone records be accessed by the Corps. I ask that the Corps disable all accessible avenues to IPOP from Ms. Tose, as she is still a USACE employee and has proven herself untrustworthy at best. Finally, I ask that the USACE issue a permit to IPOP to commence mining on June 1, 2021.

Hundreds of people sent letters to the US ACE about this and absolutely nothing has been done. In short, an employee of USACE violated at least a dozen standards of ethical conduct, costing an American company millions, costing the State of Alaska millions, costing state and federal government millions, yet has retained employment at the Corps, with a paycheck and benefits. On the other hand, IPOP has complied with every request and demand from the Corps, has irrefutably proven that a permit to mine its claims is warranted, and is still without a permit and is out millions on frivolous requests and demands. IPOP has tolerated and endured this for 4 years and it time for a permit.

Please help if you're able.

Sincerely,  
M Weinstein, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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**Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang**  
Department of Fish and Game  
1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I hereby offer my opinion concerning the IPOP dredge mining project. I ask and encourage you to give IPOP assistance in procuring the permits needed to begin dredging in the Bonanza Channel. This project can produce tremendous benefits for Nome and for Alaska. This is especially important due to the ongoing economic crisis. IPOP can create jobs. IPOP can pay taxes. IPOP can produce wealth.

The combined net worth of all the limited partners is well over \$1 Billion, clearly they possess the finances to make this project a success. In addition, the partners have a vast amount of knowledge and experience that is applicable to this project. They are law-abiding citizens, tax payers, job creators and have the means to make this project succeed. Let them show you what they can do for Alaska! IPOP can be an asset for Alaska.

There is a large amount of gold present in the sands of the Bonanza Channel. IPOP presents supporting evidence for this in the permit application. Many of the partners believe these sands could be as rich as the sands of the Nome beaches during the 1898 gold rush. This will provide royalties and taxes to Alaska and income taxes to the federal government. The partners conservatively estimate that IPOP can produce 100,000 troy ounces of gold per season.

IPOP will have a small footprint in the area. IPOP calculations predict that the dredge can process the sands from roughly 20 acres per mining season. This is a very small portion of the 15,000 acres contained within the Safety Sound & Bonanza Channel area. There will be very little effect upon the use of the area for subsistence. In addition, they expect to be able to return the bottom profile to nearly its original condition using sonar and computer mapping. IPOP will not cause lasting harm to the environment and IPOP will not add any chemicals to the water. Gravity alone is used to separate gold from sand.

A double turbidity curtain will be used to enclose completely the area being dredged. No fish, birds, or animals will be harmed. All of the equipment to be used has the best sound reduction currently available.

IPOP has very rigorous hiring standards including a zero-tolerance policy towards drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. All potential employees are given a criminal background check. Several IPOP employees are veterans. IPOP employees will not cause any problems with the local citizens. IPOP estimates that this project will create two dozen high paying seasonal jobs.

Several false objections have been raised against this project, generated by IPOP's project manager prior to her reassignment and unfortunately, reassignment didn't stop her. It has been claimed that there is eelgrass present in the area we wish to dredge. This is false. We have employed a marine biologist to conduct an extensive survey of the area. In roughly 600 acres surveyed, he found one patch of eelgrass that measured roughly 200' by 200'. That is less than one acre. It has also been claimed that dredging will create a turbidity plume that will prevent fish from reaching their spawning areas. This is also false. There is almost no current in this area of the channel. We have measured the value of the current at less than 0.5 mph. In addition, IPOP has agreed to utilize a turbidity curtain to contain turbidity. We have tested this and shown that it works perfectly. Turbidity is a non-issue. It has been claimed that IPOP will interfere with subsistence fishing and hunting, and other activities such as birdwatching and berry picking. This is not only false, but these fears are based on the lies they have been told by the USACE. These are not accusations against USACE, they are statements of fact that are completely verifiable.

IPOP has listened to the objections to this project and has addressed these concerns with testing and scientifically supported data. Concerns regarding turbidity, eelgrass, noise, subsistence, etc. have all been identified and shown to be either false or minor.

The CoVid-19 crisis has taken a toll on tax revenues and placed much greater demand on government funding for various programs and subsidies. This is a disaster waiting to happen. These trends can only be stopped by individuals and companies stepping forward with new sources of revenue. IPOP can help with this.

I am confident the Corps should grant the permits that IPOP needs to begin mining. The risks virtually nonexistent and the benefits could be very large. In my opinion, it is worth giving IPOP a chance. Thank you again for the chance to ask for your help and support.

Respectfully,

M.Y. Estrella, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune:

I support the issuance of a mining permit for the IPOP gold dredge mining operation. I am associated with IPOP as a limited partner; however, I was in favor of this project prior to becoming a limited partner – in fact, that’s why I became a partner in this project.

I am indignant by the public comments made by a USACE employee, IPOP’s project manager via Nome Nugget and KNOM, Facebook posts by Kawarek, Inc., and Solomon Village. The comments made to the public are the epitome of propaganda: the dissemination of lies to influence public opinion.

The information that should be publicized is:

### **IPOP Mining Project Brings Hope And Recovery To Nome**

IPOP, an American mining company brings an innovative process to mine for gold to Nome with state-of-the-art equipment, causing no environmental harm. IPOP does not add chemicals in their process, they simply use gravity to separate gold from sands and gravel. Their claims are located in an isolated remote area of the Bonanza Channel that hasn’t been used for subsistence in decades. IPOP has submitted scientific evidence to the Army Corps of Engineers, who has unfortunately been sitting on the permit for years for reasons unknown. This scientific evidence has irrefutably proven the excellence and safety of their operation.

The good news for Alaska is that IPOP has discovered an area thought to be deplete of gold, to in fact be abundant in the much sought after precious metal. Why is this good for Alaska? Alaska will receive a 3% royalty for the resource, while IPOP does all the work. The company will bring much needed commerce to Nome during the mining season which is welcomed by local businesses.

Once IPOP starts mining, Nome should gear up for the boom and if you happen to see an IPOP crew member, make sure to say “thank you”. Stay tuned for further developments.

That is what should be written; unfortunately, what *has* been written is very different. The bottom line is, IPOPOP has provided science, the resistance has not. IPOPOP has proven their worthiness for a permit, resistance has only proven they have nothing.

I recommend a permit for IPOPOP to get Alaska up and running again. IPOPOP has been pursuing a permit for over 4 years, repeatedly demonstrating their worthiness of it to the Army Corps of Engineers, yet the Corps continues to play their power games by withholding the permit - at great expense to Alaska, the country, to IPOPOP and its 150+ American limited partners. It's not only disappointing, it's shameful.

Sincerely,  
N Bilden

cc:

- IPOPOP, LLC
- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law
- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP
- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
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Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am a limited partner in the IPOP dredge mining operation and naturally I support the issuance of mining permits for IPOP. I would like to call attention to the fact that IPOP's application for the Individual Permit has been in the possession of the USACE for about a year, still pending approval for IPOP's request to dredge in the Seward Peninsula, Bonanza Channel and Safety Sound areas, pursuant to their mining claims granted by the State of Alaska in the inland waterways more than 5 years ago.

I am aware of the environmental concerns regarding eelgrass, fish spawning and dredge created, plume cloud movement. IPOP has addressed these three environmental issues in numerous scientific studies and observations which have proven beyond a doubt that in the 600 acre area surveyed there is only a 200' x 200' patch of eelgrass present on IPOP's mining claims, fish do not spawn or appear in the Bonanza Channel and any plume generated by IPOP's mining operations are quickly dissipated and never extend beyond their protective dredging curtains.

Furthermore, Native Tribe allegations about subsistence hunting being threatened have been proven 100% false by the results for 2020-2021 Tier 1 hunts, Tier 2 hunts and Community harvest logs recently disclosed which show no such hunting threats to the Native Tribes in the Bonanza Channel region.

IPOP's operations as demonstrated will not harm the environment but instead will benefit the health of the Seward Peninsula by removing all harmful toxins (should they exist) identified in the inland waterways, as a result of harmful mining operations of the past. Gravel will be separated and removed from sediments via a series of centrifuges prior to the sediment being safely returned, as originally found, in the inland waterways; therefore, should any harmful metals exist, they will be filtered out before sand is returned to the floor. This is an indication of IPOP's concern for the environment as well as that of the executive management and operational teams.

I respectfully request that you carefully consider my comments and assist in the immediate issuance of IPOP's permits, as there are no environmental threats or valid claims of harms to the environment or Native Tribes' livelihoods from IPOP's proposed operations, as has been confirmed with science, not emotional outbursts.

Regards,

N. Randlett, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOP, LLC
- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law
- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP
- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Senator Lisa Murkowski  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
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Attorney General Treg R. Taylor  
1031 West 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 200  
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Commissioner Corri A. Feige  
Department of Natural Resources  
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Senator Dan Sullivan  
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Kip Knudsen  
State and Federal Relations  
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Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang  
Department of Fish and Game  
1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune:

I am a limited partner in the IPOPOP dredge mining operation in the Bonanza Channel near Nome, asking for your support and assistance in favor of a permit for IPOPOP to mine its claims for gold. I am a limited partner; however, I assure you my views and comments are unbiased.

I am not aware of any mining operation proposed in Alaska that has ever been required to prove gold or any other material on its claims. Coring is designed for the benefit of the miner, not the permitting agency. Coring samples and proof of gold are certainly not listed among the permit requirements on the USACE permitting process site. IPOPOP was issued a coring mandate to not only prove there was gold present, but to prove the quantity as well. As you may have heard, the AMA publication got wind of what was submitted to the USACE – they ***did not*** hear it from anyone connected to IPOPOP – and published it as a “***massive gold discovery***”. There is of course verifiable, tangible evidence of this, as well as the falsehoods about it that ensued from within the USACE. The price of gold has been high for the last two years, and every day that elapses is a considerable monetary loss for IPOPOP LLC, IPOPOP’s limited partners, Nome, the State of Alaska, the federal government, numerous state economies, and national economy. IPOPOP General Partners reside in Nevada and California. The 140+ limited partners reside throughout the nation, including but not limited to California, Nevada, Arizona, Washington State, Florida, New Mexico, Nebraska, Montana, Colorado, Idaho, Texas, and many other states. Each and every one of those states is also experiencing a significant monetary loss with each passing day.

As I’m sure you are aware, as with any mining project, there has been some vocal opposition, it’s simply unavoidable. There are people who embrace change and forward movement, then there are those who are afraid of change because they are fearful of the unknown. Taking a new step is what people fear most. Then there are those who oppose for exploitative purposes. In that regard, the IPOPOP project is no different from all other mining projects; except for one important element: IPOPOP had their own USACE Project Manager working against them - until September 4, 2020 when she was removed from the project after 4 years of damage caused by her.

When the opportunity to become an IPOPOP partner arose I researched the company, the potential environmental impact, the benefits, deficits and of course vocal opposition. I like to know what everyone is saying; otherwise, research is a colossal waste of time. I was taken aback by the negative comments coming from IPOPOP’s project manager at the USACE. I was unaware that this sort of thing would even be allowed, as it seemed to present a very clear conflict of interest, considering the fact that the project manager is tasked with approval of the permit. I was curious enough to research that – you know how

research goes, one thing leads to another, then another, and so on. I found the Code of Federal Regulations Subchapter B-Government Ethics-Part 2635-Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch. There are a number of violations attributable to IPOP's former project manager; therefore, I was very relieved when she was reassigned off the IPOP project. Unfortunately, she continued her work against IPOP. Whether she is on or off the project, this conduct remains in violation of ethics, as the code applies to all employees. 2635.101(a), (b), (b)(1), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (13), (14), (c). I have identified at least twelve verifiable violations, and potentially more that I am quite certain of but cannot prove with tangible evidence. I am astonished and distressed that this employee has not been placed on administrative leave, pending an investigation.

I was able to assimilate through my comprehensive research that IPOP is revolutionizing the process for suction dredging, which will establish the procedure as the paradigm for all miners today and hereafter. IPOP's process could be as significant as the Clean Air Act of 1963, introducing a mining process absent chemicals, using only gravity, filtering out the potentially harmful metals from the waters while tapping into the mineral resources of Alaska, which will be instrumental in the recovery of Alaska's economy, the aforementioned numerous states throughout the nation and the federal government. I should think that any governmental branch would be thrilled to be a part of the economic recovery of the state that was one of – if not *the* – hardest hit with the CoVid economic disaster of 2020. Unfortunately, the Corps seems to desire only the opposite.

The individuals opposing IPOP have yet to provide any factual or scientific data supporting their oppositional stance and protestations. They have been fully apprised of IPOP's commitment to the environment of the Bonanza Channel and to the financial future of Nome and Alaska, being tainted by other destructive operations. (On an ironic note one of these most disputably toxic operations is the Native operated Red Dog mine, considered the most toxic operation in North America per US EPA.) They have been told that IPOP is a danger to them, their families, their economy and even their lives, at the behest of the USACE; however, if they read the PN posted for the 2020 public comment portion of the permit approval, they would be well aware that there is absolutely nothing to fear from IPOP, it's limited partners, its crew, its team, or the project itself. This is very unfortunate at a time when people need hope, not pessimism. Truth, not dishonesty. Recovery, not destruction. Wealth, not poverty.

If you review the most recent data IPOP has provided to the USACE, I am confident that you will agree with its scientific findings. I am hopeful that you will determine that 2021 permits can be issued expeditiously for IPOP and you may be willing to support and assist IPOP in accomplishing that. I appreciate your time and attention to the IPOP operation, permitting process, permit approval and issuance, and to my earnest request for assistance.

N. Rutledge, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

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cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



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**Congressman Don Young**  
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Dear Commissioner Brune

As a limited partner in IPOPOP, LLC I assert that IPOPOP should have been granted a mining permit to suction dredge its claims long ago. I am reaching out to you to request your support and assistance for IPOPOP and this project to mine placer gold from the Bonanza Channel.

There are numerous reasons to grant these permits and there appear to be only limited objections, most of which are baseless; not based on science or fact. Objections are just opinions, and none of the objections to the IPOPOP dredge mining project have a shred of supporting documentation, scientific studies or testing. All they have is propaganda, unsubstantiated claims, negative emotion and destructive agendas.

President Trump stepped in to help Alaska last year; however, I find it exceedingly unlikely Alaska will receive another billion dollars from the federal government anytime soon, if ever. Alaska will likely need to borrow money during this fiscal crisis and IPOPOP will enable the State to estimate the value of its inland waters, which may possibly be the paramount reason for granting this permit.

The economy of the country has substantial problems right now and the federal deficit has exploded. The devastating economic crisis brought on by the COVID disaster is causing far more destruction than mining a few acres in an Alaskan wilderness. USACE should be welcoming this project, not trying to destroy it. The IPOPOP project will feed millions of dollars into the state and federal budgets at a time when it has never been needed more.

Before becoming an IPOPOP limited partner, I reviewed all of the available information concerning the possible gains and concerning the methods that would be used to achieve those gains. I was, and still am, unequivocally decisive that IPOPOP can effectively develop the mineral wealth contained in these inland waters without causing harm to the local environment. IPOPOP has spent millions of dollars on specialized equipment and millions more with delays and unwarranted repeat (yet required by USACE) testing and studies. The only thing IPOPOP needs to continue to benefit the local economy and Alaska are the permits. It is time for action on the part of USACE. It is time for USACE to stop playing games and issue permits that should have already been issued. It's time for USACE to stand up for IPOPOP and stop supporting the unethical conduct of an unscrupulous employee. USACE seems to be the only agency fighting IPOPOP. The state agencies aren't fighting us at every step with unwarranted allegations and repeated testing; they have been professional and forthright. IPOPOP claims aren't on federal land or Native land, they are on State land, causing no harm to any land or any person. This should really be a no-brainer.

As verified in the aforementioned studies, the benefits of this project vastly outweigh any possible losses or risks. I urge you to help us in our seemingly unending struggle for the regulatory permits needed for this project to proceed.

Yours Truly,

P. Arola, Limited Partner IPOPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am a limited partner of IPOP and am requesting your support and participation in the procurement of a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers to mine our claims in the Bonanza Channel.

Based upon scientific evidence and data submitted to the Army Corps of Engineers I assert the following to be true:

- The IPOP mining project will pay Alaska a 3% royalty
- The IPOP operation causes no harm to the environment
- Subsistence use of IPOP's claims is virtually nonexistent
- Turbidity is not at issue due to a double turbidity curtain
- Eelgrass is not an issue
- The IPOP project has no effect on fish or fishing operations
- IPOP has agreed to bring commerce to Nome
- IPOP will fill approximately 2 dozen jobs in Nome
- IPOP's encampment is temporary and non-intrusive
- IPOP is an American company
- The IPOP project does not negatively impact anyone
- IPOP has used science to prove every assertion they have made about the stalwartness of their operation
- IPOP's opposition has not proven a single assertion they have made

To be blunt, this seems like a no-brainer to me. IPOP has complied with all requests, they have a very experienced and friendly crew, high-end cutting edge equipment and they're ready and eager to mine right now. There are only reasons to issue the permit – no reasons not to. I'd say it's time to issue the permit and I sincerely hope you agree and are willing to help.

Thank you –

Peter P, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I want to address the issue of the IPOP, LLC permit to mine for gold in the Bonanza Channel. IPOP has been waiting for over 4 years for the approval and issuance of the Individual Permit to mine its claims. It is beyond ludicrous to think that any permit should take this long, at this point it's just abusive.

As an IPOP backer, I am well aware of this project. As an informed person, I am aware of the opinions, perceptions and misperceptions, and concerns circulating among some of the local population, including some native tribes, regarding this project. Unquestionably, IPOP has gone well above and beyond the minimum requirements to comply with requests from all agencies to provide substantiated data to dispel these concerns.

It is falsely alleged that IPOP would discharge pollutants. The IPOP dredging operation uses only suction and gravity and uses no chemicals nor deposits any additional material back into the channel. Those who are making these allegations are well informed of the truth, yet they haven't stopped. That transforms an allegation into a blatant and deliberate lie.

There are erroneous claims that eelgrass exists throughout IPOP mining claims. The vegetation studies IPOP performed at the request of the Corps show its presence in less than 1 acre in all IPOP claims. I do not believe this interferes with the ecosystem of the waters, as eelgrass is the most abundant sea grass on the coast of Alaska (per Peter C McRoy, PhD Thesis, University of Alaska, Fairbanks). Again, these people and groups have seen the studies and results, and are knowingly spreading false information.

There are unsubstantiated concerns about fish being hindered by the presence of turbidity caused by the dredge. Although preliminary studies showed that the makeup of the sands would cause them to settle almost immediately, IPOP was quick to comply with the agency suggestion to utilize a double turbidity curtain to mitigate any concerns. Yet another case of an unsubstantiated concern becoming a malicious and deliberate lie.

It is being said the dredge would be loud and a disturbance to wildlife, when in fact the decibel level is markedly low due to the equipment being encased in sound attenuating enclosures. These people have seen this study as well...I think you can decipher what that makes their statements.

Significant loss of subsistence use area was a local concern. There are 15,000 acres for subsistence use. IPOPOP will inhabit approximately 20. This is NOT a significant impact or loss. In addition, IPOPOP's research showed that records for 2020-2021 Harvest and Subsistence Permits are nominal:  
Community Harvest - NOME "0" Bonanza Channel "0"  
Tier II Subsistence Permit - NOME "6", Bonanza Channel "0"  
Tier I Subsistence Permit - NOME "0", Bonanza Channel "0"

They have seen this report as well. Additionally, they have taken this one a step further by staging photos of "catches" on IPOPOP claims. One of a 25 pound halibut apparently swimming around in 12 inches of inland waters.

It is proclaimed that the dredging will permanently leave tailing pilings and distort the nature of the shallows. Not true. IPOPOP's state of the art sonar and re-distribution capabilities will leave the channel as it was found. And I'll just go ahead and say it - the weather will alter more than IPOPOP will.

And of course, "There is no gold there" was a common belief...until IPOPOP was finally given a permit to core, the findings revealed even higher quantities of gold than we anticipated. Now the new assertion is that there isn't enough gold there. Not true either. They know exactly how much gold was found there because the USACE was generous enough to provide them with the results report without IPOPOP's knowledge.

IPOPOP has been compliant in all agency requests, a responsible and charitable member of The Nome Chamber of Commerce, and is poised to distribute massive amounts of revenue into the dismantled Alaska State Budget.

All the USACE has to do is assess the facts and the scientific data and not the hysterical conjecture, and issue the necessary permits for IPOPOP to mine in the 2021 mining season. Given the history of how the USACE has mishandled this project, I find the likelihood of getting a permit highly *unlikely*.

Thank you,  
PJ Adib, IPOPOP LLC Backer

cc:  
- IPOPOP, LLC  
- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law  
- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP  
- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune,

I support the IPOP dredge mining project and the immediate issuance of all permits to commence operations June 1, 2021. I am writing to you to ask for your help and support in the approval and issuance of the permits we need to mine our claims in the Bonanza Channel near Nome.

USACE has reviewed a tremendous amount of scientific data provided by IPOP and conclude the operation to be an environmentally friendly mining operation that will cause no harm to the environment.

IPOP has proven a number of things with their data research, mapping, drone footage, coring and science. I am familiar with the negative comments from some groups who are very hostile toward this project and toward IPOP as a company. It isn't difficult to find the negative press, what is difficult to find are the positive comments from any media outlet. The benefits IPOP will bring to Alaska as a state, and to Nome should be front page news.

The economy of Nome, the economy of Alaska, and the United States will all benefit from this mining project. IPOP offers help and hope, while the hostile groups offer abhorrence, negativity and aversion to the mining operation offering the help and hope. IPOP offers science, the hostiles offer unfounded accusation. IPOP has proven their statements, the hostiles have proven absolutely nothing. It seems they haven't even tried. It looks to me like they're simply trying to bully IPOP and the agencies into submission.

It is well known there is no subsistence in the area of IPOP claims. The Native Tribes know this as well as anybody, if not better, yet they're proclaiming that very spot as the spot where they hunt for food to feed their families. It's a completely dishonest proclamation, without question. So the question is, what is their objective? Why are they so dead set against IPOP, who will not interfere with, nor alter their lives in any manner whatsoever? Whatever their objective is, one thing is certain; it is dishonorable. It is dishonorable to try to prevent help and hope to not only the state, but the people in it who so desperately need it. It is dishonorable to try to bankrupt a hard working, honorable company, doing nothing wrong, illicit or unethical. IPOP isn't hurting anybody, they're just trying to make a living for themselves, their limited partners and the citizens and businesses of Nome. Who are the hostiles helping with their attempts to stop IPOP?

I sincerely hope you consider my comments and ultimately decide to assist us in our endeavor for a permit with no more delays.

Thank you,

P. Reali, IPOP LLC Backer

cc:

- *IPOP, LLC*

- *J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law*

- *James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP*

- *Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

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Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am writing to request your support and intervention in the issuance of mining permits on the proposed IPOPOP mining project. *I am very much in support of this project.*

IPOPOP has been treated unfairly and delayed for over four years by USACE, and I believe IPOPOP is long overdue for some fair, unbiased treatment, and ultimately a permit.

The numerous delays imposed by USACE include, but are not limited to:

Exceeding regulatory deadlines for responses to requests to conduct work on the IPOPOP mining claims.

Conducting opposition surveys on the phone so our previous USACE project manager could continue denying IPOPOP a permit to mine.

Requiring a core sample to prove the presence of gold, then refusing to issue the coring permit for nearly 2 years.

Ignoring an Executive Order issued by President Trump

Refusing to accept the scientific evidence of no turbidity, causing IPOPOP to purchase and employ a second curtain to surround the 2500' curtain, then requiring another study and sitting on that permit for months, just to perform the study USACE required.

Participating in an opposition crusade to "Stop IPOPOP" (again, previous USACE project manager)  
Colluded with Native Tribes against IPOPOP

Gave multiple interviews to local media outlets, even on September 4, 2020, just minutes after she [Leslie Tose] was removed from the IPOPOP project as USACE project manager.

Provided specific public commentary verbiage to opposition groups

Numerous instances of conflicts of interest including but not limited to the aforementioned situations

Fear mongering among locals with misleading statements, manipulated facts and outright lies.

Mining has been a staple in Nome for at least 130 years and now suddenly, endangered species have magically shown up on IPOPOP claims to set up habitats, per Leslie Tose and Kawarek, Inc., which is clearly incongruent with ADFG statistics.

When IPOPOP first arrived in Nome they were approached by local Nome miners offering to sell their own claims, totaling \$22 million aggregate dollars. When IPOPOP refused these local offerings, they had made new enemies who are now feigning "concerns" about the project. These so-called concerns include impinging on fishing, eelgrass, ability to feed their families without the subsistence that doesn't exist on IPOPOP claims. They have protested the IPOPOP project for a number of reasons, all of which are completely false – as IPOPOP has irrefutably proven with science and data.



IPOP has proven its case in support of a permit, opposition and USACE have failed to disprove the scientific evidence presented by IPOP; therefore, a permit should be issued to IPOP summarily.

Thank you,

R Alferos  
IPOP Project Supporter and Limited Partner

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I AM ASKING FOR HELP. I am one of over 150 limited partners in the IPOP dredge mining operation in the Bonanza Channel near Nome. IPOP has been jumping through USACE hoops for 5 years and still has no permit to mine it's claims. I am 100% confident that IPOP is due its permit and has the right to mine it's duly owned claims. My reasons are contained in this letter herewith.

With regard to the proposal to mine for placer gold in the Bonanza Channel, I thank you for taking time to read this letter on such an important issue. I presume you take protecting the environment very seriously, as do I. As a limited partner in this project, I am of course very familiar with the IPOP mining project, which is why I am asking for your help in the granting of permits to commence mining immediately. I would not support or be involved in this, or any project if I did not believe it would be done safely and in a manner that does not harm the environment. There are numerous benefits to this project, please allow me to name just a few.

I am well acquainted with several IPOP partners, who are all very serious individuals. We are scattered throughout the country and in most cases have only gotten to know each other through this project. We are all very passionate about this project, not only for the prosperity for ourselves, but for Alaska as the 49<sup>th</sup> state, the country, and the honor to participate in the recovery of a seriously injured economy. We feel strongly about contributing to the recovery of our beloved country. IPOP's General Partner has successfully managed operations in very sensitive ecosystems for decades. We are law-abiding citizens, tax payers and job creators.

The entire global economy is suffering from the CoVid-19 ruination of our country. This is the time when it is urgent that businesses step up to create jobs, pay taxes, and create wealth. IPOP can and will do all of these things. It's time for USACE to give IPOP the opportunity to demonstrate what we can do to help.

IPOP has submitted core samples from the area where we propose to mine (claims). We have discovered immense wealth in the Bonanza Channel. As you know, Alaska will benefit by receiving a 3% royalty on all of the gold that is produced. There is also a mining tax that will benefit Alaska. Nome will benefit from sales taxes and property taxes and tourism from the partners. Local businesses will thrive from the sale of fuel, food and supplies. The US Treasury will benefit from income taxes paid by the partners. The vast amount of these federal income taxes will be at the maximum 37% rate.

By establishing mining in these inland waters, Alaska will be able to assign a value to the 174 million acres of inland water that it owns. This will allow Alaska to borrow money if needed, and in its present condition this is crucial.

IPOP employs rigorous hiring standards with on-site rules and regulations of a zero-tolerance policy towards drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. All potential employees are subjected to a criminal background check. Several IPOP employees are veterans. IPOP employees will not cause any problems with the local citizens; however, they will be of benefit to them.

This project will be very inconsequential to the environment. There is virtually no risk to the local environment. The proposed operation will only involve dredging sand and water, removing the gold, and returning the sand and water to the place from which it was removed. *No chemicals will be used in the processing of the gold.*

IPOP will deposit the dredged sands back into the same place from whence they were taken. They will use sonar and computer assistance to restore the floor profile to its original form, which will greatly reduce the visible effects of the dredging.

When Alaska was admitted into the Union as the 49<sup>th</sup> state, the primary reason for admitting it into the Union was its potential for mineral wealth. Projects such as this are precisely what they had in mind back then. I don't know all of the details, but I do know that the economy is a wreck and US citizens need to do anything that we can to put people back to work and to create wealth and pay taxes. IPOP can do all of these things with this project. One of the things we are in dire need of is for the country to unite and help one another. Alaska was one of, if not the hardest hit in 2020 and it needs the help we are offering, and quite honestly, we all need help.

I ask you to help in the issuance of the much needed permits to IPOP as soon as possible so we can commence mining June 2021. Thank you again for listening. I hope you can help, and I earnestly hope IPOP is given the opportunity to help Alaska and the country.

Sincerely,

R. Cannon, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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**Commissioner Jason Brune, ADEC**  
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1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am a backer of the IPOP dredge mining operation, I advocate for the IPOP gold mining project, and as a limited partner in the IPOP project I will confidently state that we can safely and cleanly process these gold bearing sands to benefit the state and local governments, the federal government, and our partnership. What I cannot confidently state is that we will ever be able to mine our claims in the Bonanza Channel. We have been trying to do just that for 4 years; unfortunately, the US Army Corps of Engineers simply will not issue our permit. Does the USACE prefer to remain dependent upon China over issuing a permit to IPOP? I wonder if you are able to assist with that?

I certainly appreciate the importance of a safe, clean job site, environmental awareness, and proper regulation. IPOP adheres to those high standards, has proven this fact time and time again, yet they still have no permit. I am aware that most mining operations leave the area mined in shoddy condition with scars that may never heal; however, this is not the way IPOP does business. Using advanced sonar and computer technology, IPOP will be able to restore the channel bottom to very near its original condition, perhaps even better.

The second half of the year 2020 has taken a toll on the nation's entire economy and Nome and Alaska are certainly no exceptions. On June 4, 2020 President Trump issued an executive order to all government agencies to do everything possible to help the economy recover, and this project is one of those things that can benefit the economy by providing jobs and paying taxes.

The State of Alaska is in economic distress due to the CoVid-19 crisis and Alaska needs revenue. The State of Alaska will receive a 3% royalty of all gold produced, the federal government will receive income taxes from the partners on the remaining 97% after payment of operating costs. The present maximum tax rate is 37% given the overwhelming amount of the gold production that will be taxed at this maximum rate less expenses and depletion. IPOP has core evidence that there is gold present in commercial quantities in the sands of the Bonanza Channel, and IPOP has equipment that is capable of processing those sands at very high speeds. We believe that our operation will turn Nome into a boom town, while bringing recovery to Alaska, to the federal government, and to the limited partners of IPOP. This operation will create high paying jobs which will also be of great benefit to the local economy of Nome from the purchase of fuel and supplies. Many of the more than 150 partners will travel to Alaska to visit the dredge while it is operating. This will contribute tourism to the local economy. The total benefit to the Nome economy will be roughly seven figures per season while the total benefit to the Alaska economy could be well into eight figures per season.

All of the equipment that will be used is insulated for noise reduction. The amount of noise that will be produced is no more than what is produced by the road that is nearby on the barrier islands.

The area of IPOP claims is so remote and isolated even local residents and wild animals don't use these lands. This project is probably the most economically beneficial use for these lands, that had been sitting on the auction block for years because nobody wanted them...until IPOP got them and then all hell broke loose and you'd think IPOP picked up the Taj Mahal for cheap. IPOP has proven every assertion about this beneficial project with data and science. Opposition to this project has failed to prove a single one of their accusations and have not submitted a shred of evidence, data or science.

For the reasons addressed within this letter I believe the US Army Corps of Engineers should immediately issue the required permits to allow IPOP to begin mining in the Bonanza Channel. I hope you feel the same.

Regards,  
R. Clough  
Limited Partner IPOP, LLC

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I believe in the IPOP operation and am writing to express my support for permit approval and ask for your support and action as well.

I was grateful when IPOP was at last been permitted to conduct the necessary tests, data-gathering and analysis to prove with science what IPOP has believed and professed from the beginning: that IPOP has created an environmentally friendly placer mining process for this type of shallow water environment.

There have been opposing opinions based upon assumption and supposition and even outright lies. This is partially understandable when people are being fed misinformation of a "California Corporation proposing a destructive operation in the Bonanza Channel and Safety Sound". The intent of this misinformation is clearly to cause fear and resentment of the IPOP operation, as the only true part of the above statement is the *operation in the Bonanza Channel*. I recognize the "outsiders are not welcome" attitude as a fear based defense mechanism among many native Alaskans. Just as I would not expect anyone to take my opinion as fact at face value, I also expect the regulatory agencies, just as in a court of law, to base their decisions upon fact and science.

IPOP has successfully invalidated the claims that there is eelgrass throughout the channel, the plume turbidity from the dredge will irreparably alter fish migration, subsistence hunting and fishing depends on the entire area being unoccupied, there is no gold in the Bonanza Channel on IPOP claims, and literally every imaginable claim to forestall and immobilize this project. All of this has been irrefutably disproven by the scientific studies in possession of the Army Corps of Engineers. What have the opponents making these claims, irrefutably proven? The answer is *nothing* – they have failed to submit any scientific studies or evidence of any nature to support their erroneous claims and accusations. IPOP has even proven that the Native Tribes and their land will not be affected in any manner whatsoever, yet they have still been given voice in this project – contrary to the requirement that they must be *significantly* impacted in order to have voice in the project.

I ask you to believe the science and the data, place Alaska and it's citizens first, and intercede for approval of IPOP permits to commence mining on June 1, 2021.

Thank you,

R. Copher, IPOP LLC Backer

cc:

- *IPOP, LLC*

- *J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law*

- *James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP*

- *Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

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Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am writing to you to offer my support in favor of IPOPOP, LLC's proposal for placer mining in the Bonanza Channel east of Nome, Alaska (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Project No. POA-2018-00123), and urge your support for the Project. As I understand per the current public notice, it is proposed to have a small Case Study that will allow the applicant to prove their ability to operate within the terms of the previously requested Individual Permit and that will require still further scientific information to be gathered.

The Corps has raised a number of additional questions as part of its review of IPOPOP's application for an Individual permit, causing further unnecessary delays and additional unnecessary expense to IPOPOP. We have continuing concerns as to the extraordinary permitting delays that the Corps has inflicted upon this project, most recently waiting an entire winter to approve additional core sampling and then taking the position that the sampling cannot be done except in solid ice conditions, which are now vanishing as the Corps continues to withhold its permission.

I therefore request that all necessary permits will be granted in advance of the beginning of the mining season on June 1, 2021. Failure to do so at this point, as we approach four years of meeting the Corps' escalating demands, would constitute bad faith and malfeasance of duty. I would also expect that at the successful conclusion of the Case Study, all of the concerns of the Corp will have been satisfied and that no further issues will be raised. It will then be appropriate to issue the Individual Permit.

Very truly yours,

R Flores, IPOPOP LLC Backer

cc:

- IPOPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



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Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am writing to you to request your help regarding issuing a permit to allow IPOP, LLC to dredge for gold in the Bonanza channel in Nome, Alaska.

As one of the Limited Partners in this project I fully understand the necessity of a review of any permit application. The most recent studies have been delivered to the USACE and have been reviewed. USACE should not only be very pleased with the results, but should have issued a permit immediately, based upon the results. Unfortunately, they are staying true to form and asking for more information, which is what they have done for the past 4 years. IPOP has delivered everything they have required, USACE takes their time reviewing, then comes up with something else to task us with, at our expense. Many studies have been performed multiple times to accommodate the USACE. It is essential to not only IPOP but Alaska as well that IPOP is issued a permit to mine these claims.

The needs of the environment and the users of the Bonanza channel should be taken into account. Having been a partner from the beginning of the project 4 years ago, I have always been proud in the knowledge that we as a Partnership are made up of American citizens with the highest respect for clean, environmentally safe operations.

I empathize with opponents not wanting a habitat to be destroyed. But these fears need to be based on fact. For example, you cannot put an end to farming because some farmers in the past have been irresponsible stewards and stripped the land. You cannot condemn sustainable forestry because some loggers in the past clear-cut ancient forests. But some people will lump all mining together as a ravaging enterprise when in fact we have proven with the extensive studies recently submitted that IPOP can and will leave the area the same or improved after a very temporary alteration.

In the face of the Covid economic disaster and the state's budget and services crisis, this small temporary alteration will provide an enormous and much needed revenue to Alaskan citizens at both the state and local level.

Please do not pigeon-hole IPOP's state-of-the-art equipment and technology in with the ravagers of the past. We are committed to setting the clean, non-intrusive bar for the future of placer mining. I was hopeful that USACE would look at the data objectively and conclude that IPOP has addressed and mitigated any concerns with facts and science, and would issue permits to mine; however, they have accommodated yet another public comment period and extension to it, which will likely prevent IPOP from mining for the 4<sup>th</sup> year.

Sincerely,

R. Lee, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

Please consider this letter as an appeal for support and assistance. I am a limited partner in the IPOPOP dredge mining operation in the Bonanza Channel, I support this project and the issuance of all permits to commence operations forthwith; however, we need your support and help with the approval and issuance of the Individual Permit which has been delayed and unfairly obstructed for more than four years by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

The Corps has tasked IPOPOP with **numerous repeated** testing, scientific studies, Public Comment periods, required core samples to prove the presence of gold on our claims, delays on permits to perform the very studies and testing the Corps is requiring, and incidents of bias and unfair treatment. All of this is well documented and fully verifiable.

The economy of Nome, the economy of Alaska, and the United States will greatly benefit from the IPOPOP suction dredge mining project on the Bonanza Channel. IPOPOP has proven significant gold presence on their legally obtained claims on the Bonanza Channel and possesses the legal right to mine them.

The economy of the country has been seriously compromised since the Covid crisis hit us last year, and we are all in need of recovery. Citizens need jobs, Federal, State, and local governments need taxes, businesses need commerce and the country needs prosperity. IPOPOP is able to assist in fulfilling these needs.

I have reviewed the scientific data provided to me by IPOPOP and consider the operation to be environmentally friendly, causing no enduring disruption or injury to the environment or wildlife. I believe the USACE is obligated to expedite the immediate issuance of all required permits to IPOPOP to accomplish the above.

Regrettably, IPOPOP cannot assist in any recovery in the absence of the permit to mine, which the Army Corps of Engineers has refused to approve; notwithstanding IPOPOP having met every requirement issued from the Corps.

Thank you for your consideration of this most crucial matter.

Very truly yours,  
R. Lehman, Limited Partner IPOPOP LLC

cc:  
- IPOPOP, LLC  
- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law  
- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP  
- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 115526  
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Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

**I appeal to you for help.** I approve of IPOP and am a limited partner of IPOP's gold dredging mining project in the Bonanza Channel. I back this project and I hope that after reading my letter, you will support this project and offer both support and assistance in the approval and issuance of the permits required to commence mining operations in June 2021.

I approve of scientific findings, such as the ones submitted by IPOP in support of their assertions to date. I disapprove of people or groups who make assertions with nothing to support it.

I approve of organizations offering to boost the economy in a legal, safe and harmless manner  
I disapprove of people or organizations attempting to sabotage those offering the help; hence, strangling the struggling economies

Scientific findings are pretty difficult to dispute. When an agency asks for the studies, there is a presumption that the science will be accepted; otherwise, why would the agency ask for it? What is not difficult to dispute are baseless, unverified assertions. Anybody can say anything they wish. If they are to be considered credible, they typically need evidence or scientific corroboration to substantiate their asseverations. If the evidence is not based on scientific data, it's often subject to suspicion; such as a photo I saw on a Facebook "Stop IPOP" site of a 25 pound halibut presumably caught within an IPOP claim in less than 2 ft of inland waters. I hope they didn't give *him* the \$50 prize.

In reading about the objections to this project, I have been unable to find a single piece of evidence to support their attack on IPOP. They have pictures that are nowhere near IPOP claims, letters they have written for people to say they subsistence hunt and feed their families with their *catch* on IPOP claims and they profess to go birdwatching in that specific area - apparently the 42 best places for birdwatching in Nome aren't quite cutting it for them, they absolutely must go to remote, difficult to reach IPOP claims for that activity. A significant majority of the objections are coming from two Native Tribes – Kawarek and Solomon – at least those are the only two I have seen. These tribes are sovereign nations and they are well aware that IPOP will have no impact on them. Liz Johnson of Solomon claimed that the IPOP operation would need to cross their land to access their claims. This is, and has always been false and she is very aware of this fact. I have always felt that if a person must be untruthful to prove their point, they clearly don't have a valid point. They have made their objective known – they want to stop IPOP from mining at any cost.

IPOP, as you know, will pay Alaska a 3% royalty and boost the economy in a number of other ways as well. They will create jobs, buy goods from local merchants, revive tourism, pay taxes to the State and Federal governments, kickstart the Alaskan economic recovery and bring prosperity to the country. IPOP has proven vast amounts of gold on their claims, which translates to wealth for Alaska from IPOP. IPOP has proven the scientific aspects of the project, providing assurance the Corps of the excellence of the equipment and the operation.

I am certain USACE has sufficient cause to grant the Individual Permit to IPOP this season. I believed that a year ago as well. I believe USACE has sufficient cause to put an end to the unending, baseless crusade against the IPOP mining operation and issue the permit. I believed that year ago as well. I believed those things two years ago. With every test and scientific study IPOP performs, we are well aware that there is not another *valid* thing they can ask for and delay the project further – yet they continue to find more. The more they ask for, the more ridiculous it becomes. The newest query is about a few ringed seals who stopped off to rest about 6 miles away. ADFG knows they don't reside there, they merely stop to rest for a very short period of time. If IPOP is mining, the seals will simply rest elsewhere - it's what animals do in the wild. ADFG also states the leading cause of death of the ringed seal is native tribe hunters.

It is for these reasons I am asking for help. Given the past 5 years of history I cannot set a realistic expectation that USACE has any intention of ever issuing a permit to IPOP to mine their claims. Perhaps the Governor should stop asking people to come to Alaska to mine who don't have millions to throw at USACE.

I very much appreciate your attention - and hopefully support and assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

R. Martinez, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am writing in support of the IPOP mining project, in spite of the unfounded, baseless objections to the project. Below are some examples of the priority these unsubstantiated accusations have been given, above IPOP's lawful rights and Alaska's flailing economy in this permitting process, which has contributed to 4+ years of delays.

*"There is no gold in the Bonanza Channel."*

This was proclaimed during the first and second public comment periods as a reason to deny IPOP a permit to mine their claims. In reality, there is an abundant amount of gold, as evidenced by historical data and the coring samples that were provided in 2019 as part of the permit application. Gold that will produce revenue for Alaska when there are not many other options in sight. This was proclaimed without any assessment of its operating procedures, which has contributed to extensive delays of this permitting process. The very idea that a mining permit should be denied, based upon the applicant's ability to prove the existence of gold on a prospecting claim, is absolutely ludicrous, and likely not even legal.

*"The equipment will be deafening and disturb wildlife."*

IPOP has submitted evidence of its advanced equipment, with noise reduction safeguards. The noise from the project will be no louder than what can be heard from the distant highway on the barrier islands.

*"The entire area is heavily used for subsistence hunting and fishing."*

This has been disproven as well, as public records confirm from ZERO-6 subsistence permits listed in that area, none of which are on IPOP claims. The 6 permits were in Nome but not on or near where our claims are situated. Even if the entire area were used, IPOP's operation is limited to approximately 20 acres, which is 0.001, or 0.1% of the entire area. Is anybody truly expected to believe that individuals and families will starve without this specific one-tenth of one percent of the area? 0-6 subsistence permits on one tenth of one percent does *not* in any manner infringe significantly or otherwise on subsistence use.

*"Eelgrass beds cover the Channel and provide habitat."*

This too, has been proven as false. The facts as confirmed with science and presented to the Army Corps of Engineers, is that within the 600 acres of IPOP claims, there is one patch of eelgrass that measures 200'x200'. This is

0.00015 or 0.015% of the area IPOP proposes to mine. I don't believe this can truly be viewed as problematic, especially considering the Alaska west coastline is rife with eelgrass – clearly in areas other than IPOP claims.

*“The dredge will spew a plume high into the air and blot out visibility for fish.”*

This has also been disproven with a number of turbidity studies, employing a double turbidity curtain. This technique is also widely accepted and used by the Corps itself, throughout the nation.

*“The bottom of the channel will be irreversible routed out and damaged.”*

Disproven as well. IPOP uses sonar mapping science to return the floor to its original condition after dredging. This has been tested and is fact, not opinion.

These objections have existed from the outset and are still being touted as truth, even though they have been proven as irrefutably false, and the people touted them are well apprised of this. IPOP has disproven these objections with the submitted application information, and scientific studies, further disproving them with the submission of environmental studies.

The reality is, IPOP is the suction dredge placer mining operation of the future. IPOP's method of efficiently harvesting gold in vast amounts will contribute millions to the state and local budgets when it is most crucial. Alaska's budget has been in crisis since long before the COVID crisis and economic shutdown, and it certainly isn't going to magically fix itself.

I hereby request your support and any assistance you can offer. I ask that you choose to believe the science IPOP has submitted, and conclude that confirmed science defeats emotional opinion and deceitful criticism. IPOP is ready to get to work and contribute to the income of the state.

Thank you.

RM Atencio

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am a backer of IPOP and would like to ask for your support and assistance procuring the permits needed to begin a suction dredge mining operation in the Bonanza Channel this season beginning June 1, 2021.

As you may or may not be aware, this project will produce tremendous benefits for American citizens, federal and state governments, Nome and the State of Alaska. This is especially important due to the ongoing economic crisis in Nome and many other states throughout the nation caused by the reaction to the Covid disaster. IPOP will create jobs, pay taxes, give Alaska millions from a 3% royalty, boost Nome commerce and bring prosperity to the nation. IPOP will accomplish all of the above, while causing absolutely no harm to the environment, subsistence activity, livelihoods or lifestyles.

IPOP has proven a very large amount of gold present within its claims in the Bonanza Channel. IPOP has presented supporting evidence for this in the permit application. Third party experts are of the belief that these sands could be as rich as the sands of the Nome beaches during the 1898 gold rush. This will provide royalties and taxes to Alaska and income taxes to the federal government. The mining operation itself will consume food, fuel, and supplies. All or most of these items will be purchased from local Nome businesses. The total benefit to the government and to the economy will be millions of dollars per season.

This project is very propitious yet wholesome. In all likelihood this is likely the most benign mining operation in Alaska. The proposed mining operation will simply involve dredging sand and water, removing the gold, and returning the sand and water to the place from which it was removed, using only gravity, and no chemicals. The Corps itself uses dredging in many locations and is well aware of its usefulness.

As disclosed in IPOP's scientific studies, the double turbidity curtain that will be used will fully enclose the area being dredged. No fish, birds, animals or humans will be harmed. All equipment employed by the IPOP operation is equipped with the best sound reduction capabilities currently available. IPOP will dredge 20 acres in a season, which is a tiny fraction of the 15,000 acres of the Safety Sound/Bonanza Channel area. This minuscule fraction is 0.001 (one tenth of one percent) of the entire area.

IPOP has very rigorous hiring standards with zero-tolerance policy towards drugs, alcohol, and tobacco on site. Every potential employee is administered a criminal background check; therefore, IPOP employees are crime-free individuals and many are veterans.

There are false allegations circulating against this project in and around Nome within some very small groups. These groups do not include Nome business owners, as they, along with the Nome Chamber of Commerce are very supportive of this project.



These false allegations regarding the IPOPOP operation, the company and the location of the claims include but are not limited to, eelgrass presence, turbidity interference with spawning salmon, subsistence disruption, obstruction of berry picking and birdwatching, no gold present (which they changed to *not enough* gold following the core sample submission to the Corps), the claims are invalid because the State defrauded IPOPOP by selling them, interference with historic resources, ingress/egress upon native land, dissemination of the land, destruction and harm to the environment, the noise will bother the wildlife, IPOPOP will hurt the economy, IPOPOP hasn't tried to reach out, IPOPOP is an outside company with no right to mine Alaska's mineral resources. I may or may not have covered all of the bogus allegations but I imagine you get the picture.

Each and every allegation mentioned above is false. IPOPOP employed a marine biologist to conduct an extensive survey of the area, who found less than one acre of eelgrass in roughly 600 acres surveyed. Turbidity is a nonissue as addressed earlier in this letter, as far as subsistence use they still have 99.9% of the area for that and berry picking. Birdwatching is not an activity in the area but the good news is that they have 43 other well-known areas in and around Nome to choose from. The State did not defraud IPOPOP when they sold the leases for the claims as has been addressed by IPOPOP's legal counsel, IPOPOP has proven with scientific studies, testing and research that this project will not harm the land or the environment and uses equipment with noise reduction that works very well, based upon the amount of gold discovered on its claims IPOPOP will save the economy of Alaska – not harm it, IPOPOP has made numerous attempts to meet with these people and has documented proof of it, and IPOPOP absolutely does have the right to mine Alaska's minerals as evidenced in the Alaska State Constitution.

In short, IPOPOP has listened to the objections to this project and addressed these concerns and has disproven every objection with testing and scientifically supported data.

I don't believe the case for a permit to IPOPOP could possibly be any clearer; therefore, the USACE should grant the Individual Permit to IPOPOP so they can begin mining this season commencing June 1, 2021.

Sincerely,  
Rob K, IPOPOP LLC Backer

cc:  
- IPOPOP, LLC  
- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law  
- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP  
- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am in favor of a mining permit for IPOPOP, LLC.

As a limited partner I am well acquainted with IPOPOP, LLC. Below are some proclamations from USACE and other opposition to IPOPOP including Native Tribes, Fishing operations and a few scattered miners, cited as reasons to deny a mining permit to IPOPOP. These assertions contained no information as to how safely IPOPOP could operate, as none of these people or entities were willing to meet with IPOPOP, even after numerous requests issued by IPOPOP.

The very proposition that permits to mine should be denied because the applicant can or cannot prove the existence of gold on a prospecting claim illustrates the level of unfair and biased treatment IPOPOP has received. The truth is, every assertion from opposition, including and especially from IPOPOP's former USACE project manager has been scientifically disproven.

Debunked: "There is no gold in the Bonanza Channel."

**Confirmed:** There IS gold on IPOPOP claims and plenty of it, proven with core samples

Debunked: "Eelgrass beds cover the Channel and provide habitat."

**Confirmed:** 1/10<sup>th</sup> of 1% eelgrass in 600 acres on IPOPOP claims

Debunked: "The dredge will spew a plume high into the air and blot out visibility for fish."

**Confirmed:** No plume spewing anywhere, this didn't exist with no turbidity curtain, IPOPOP has two curtains. Current is 6" per second.

Debunked: "The equipment will be deafening and disturb wildlife."

**Confirmed:** Tested and proven to cause no more noise than the low hum from the barrier islands.

Debunked: "The bottom of the channel will be irreversibly routed out and damaged."

**Confirmed:** IPOPOP's sonar mapping leaves the bottom as good or better

Debunked: "The entire area is heavily used for subsistence hunting and fishing."

**Confirmed:** 0-6 subsistence permits issued, 0 on IPOPOP claims, 6 in Nome. That's hardly considered heavy use.

These statements are irrefutably false, proven in both previously submitted application information and in the most recent submission of environmental studies.

Gold is in abundance on IPOPOP claims, as evidenced by historical data and the coring samples that were provided in 2019 as required from IPOPOP as part of the permit application.

IPOPOP is the placer mining operation of the future – operating quietly, cleanly, and efficiently harvesting gold in vast amounts that will contribute to the state and local coffers when it is needed most; right now, in the face of the pandemic that shut down the economy, and will continue on, many years into the future.

I sincerely request that you review the science IPOPOP has supplied, and conclude that deliberate science wins over hurled accusations, and urge permitting agencies to issue permits for the 2021 mining season. IPOPOP is ready to immediately get to work and start streaming income into the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration,  
R. Padilla, Limited Partner IPOPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune,

I am a limited partner in IPOP and an ardent, passionate environmentalist backing and participating in this suction dredge mining project. I am also fervent about a permit so IPOP can finally mine its claims.

I have acquired a comprehensive awareness of the IPOP mining project over the past four years. In this endeavor I have also learned a great deal about Nome, the Bonanza Channel, Alaska and its economy. I hereby assert the reasons IPOP's mining project should be permitted without further delay.

Summarily, IPOP's dredging project has zero environmental impact and fiscally will make millions, or more likely billions for the State of Alaska, the residents of Nome, Citizens of the United States and the Federal government. Moreover, both the Federal government and the state of Alaska need environmentally friendly projects such as IPOP's immediately working, considering the economic crisis and the mineral and precious metals shortage this country faces. It is indisputable that the IPOP project should be immediately permitted without further delay. There is no valid reason *not* to immediately permit IPOP's project, unless Alaska prefers to give all of that money to China .

**IPOP'S Project Will Have Absolutely NO Environmental Impact:** Unlike large mining projects such as Kensington mine (permitted by USACE) that use chemicals, destroy mountains, generate toxic spillage and produce numerous additional destructive environmental impacts, IPOP is a uncomplicated suction dredging operation. Specifically, IPOP's project will suction dredge the floor of the Bonanza Channel, filter out the proven gold present there and deposit the filtered, uncontaminated material back into the Bonanza Channel underwater. Nothing is being added to the Bonanza Channel, no chemicals are used, no wastewater is created, no solid rock is blasted, and no toxic overflow is created. The reality is, in contrast to other massive mining projects whose areas of mining are quite expansive, IPOP is minuscule in acreage comparatively.

The primary complaint for non effectual dredging projects as IPOP's is that dredging may *potentially* cause a plume. Ergo, the worst possible consequence of the project *may* be an insignificant plume; which is actually inconsequential of environmental impacts comprehensively. Factually, as I have addressed below, the USACE is presently dredging the Nome Port of Alaska. Plumes generally occur only where there is a current in the water to carry and disperse the plume. The current in the Bonanza Channel is undetectable, traveling at 6 inches per second, less than ½ mph. The average human can easily walk 10 times faster than that. The testing performed by IPOP's scientists has demonstrated that the depth of the channel rises and falls based upon the tide from the sea. Any plume created is not problematic in any manner as any suspended sediment immediately falls to the floor of the channel. Dredging is not a complicated process. Furthermore, IPOP has procured and agreed to use not one, but two turbidity curtains. Turbidity curtains are nothing new and are well known to the Corps who have been testing and using them for decades. In fact, the Corps' own studies have shown that a turbidity curtain effectively contains any plume. Here, IPOP will be using not one, but two turbidity curtains. There can be no doubt that any plume created will be wholly contained and create zero impact on the Bonanza Channel.

Lastly, the Corps must seriously consider the lack of inhabitants, fish and vegetation in the Bonanza Channel where IPOP intends to dredge. IPOP's thorough and detailed studies of the area, fish and vegetation have been telling; as the fact of the matter is, that there is not much there. I would argue that IPOP has undertaken the most in-depth studies and mapping work ever performed in the Bonanza Channel in its history. IPOP doesn't guess as to what exists in and around the Bonanza Channel where IPOP intends to dredge, IPOP knows with certainty and has proven it. In-depth observation, studies and mapping has taken IPOP years. Unlike unsupported claims and allegations by third parties about what is "allegedly" in and around the Bonanza Channel by word of mouth (i.e. people shouting words into a void), IPOP can say with certainty what exists in and around the areas of the Bonanza Channel that IPOP intends to dredge. Specifically, there is less than an acre of eel grass within a 600 acre area, almost no salmon in the estuary, and essentially no other aquatic inhabitants that would survive the winter. Finally, there have been essentially zero people seen in the areas that IPOP intends to dredge. This is not a world class salmon fishing spot like Bristol Bay. There is absolutely zero reason why this project should not be permitted and get to work immediately.

*Alaska Leased These Properties To Be Mined And Wants To Benefit From Development of Its Resources:* The state of Alaska intended for the Bonanza Channel to be mined and dredged. This much is obvious by the fact that the state of Alaska leased these various properties to IPOP for the specific purpose of mining. It seems obvious that if a state leases state lands for a specific purpose, in this case mining, then that activity should be permitted on those state lands. This isn't a bait and switch shoe sale. Again, this is state land specifically leased for mining. Clearly, if the state of Alaska leased these properties to be mined by IPOP then Alaska is and was confident IPOP should be permitted to mine with little to no impact. For example, why would anyone lease a commercial space to a company and then not let them set up offices and do business there? Its nonsensical.

*The Corps Has Permitted Other Dredging Projects & Is Currently Dredging the Nome Port of Alaska Without A Turbidity Curtain:* First, dredging is not foreign to the Corps. The Corps has expertise in dredging and regularly permits and performs its own dredging projects. Currently, the Corps is dredging the Nome Port of Alaska. This is a complex project in a harbor with boats, humans, Beluga whales, salmon and many other inhabitants. It is a far more complex and traversed body of water than the Bonanza Channel. In the article posted on the Corps own website, the Corps states that it dredges the Nome Port of Alaska from May 1 to November 1. The article states that the hopper dredge has two heads and never stops as the dredge moves around the harbor. Most importantly, beside the fact that the article admits that the dredging goes on around Beluga whales, salmon and other wildlife without stopping, there is no mention of any use of a turbidity curtain or where the dredged materials are discharged. Clearly, if it is acceptable to dredge in the Nome Port of Alaska from May 1 to November 1 around boats, humans, salmon and Beluga whales without a turbidity curtain and discharging material from the bottom back into the water, then it is clear that IPOP's project with a modern dredge and two turbidity curtains in an area with little to no fish or vegetation will have no impact. Again, if it is safe for the Corps to dredge the entire Nome Port of Alaska with boats, humans, fish and whales swimming in the harbor waters, then it is safe for IPOP to dredge the Bonanza Channel with two turbidity curtains. This is a no-brainer.

*President Donald Trump's Executive Order Requires IPOP's Project to Be Immediately Permitted:* The message from the Federal government and the leader of the free world could not have been more clear - projects like IPOP's need to be immediately permitted given the Covid crisis. President Donald Trump signed and enacted the executive order on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 to speed up the federal permitting process for infrastructure projects like new mines in order to boost the economy. IPOP's project is they exact type of project that the executive order contemplates. The executive order titled, "Accelerating the Nation's Economic Recovery from the COVID-19 Emergency by Expediting Infrastructure Investments and Other Activities," directs the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to fast-track the permitting processes required under the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act. The executive order declares an economic emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which will allow the White House to side-step traditional regulatory requirements imposed under current laws. There can be no doubt that IPOP is the exact type of mining project required to be immediately permitted as it has zero environmental impact and will make million/billions for Nome, Alaska and the United States of America.

*The State of Alaska & Governor Dunleavy Want Projects Like IPOP Immediately Permitted:* As the Corps is likely aware, Alaska wants to develop its resources. In fact, Governor Dunleavy wrote an article fully arguing for and supporting the development of Alaska's resources in connection with projects like IPOP. Specifically, Governor Dunleavy states, "***Denying Alaska the ability to develop our natural resources certainly flies in the face of our rights. As a state whose admittance into the union was predicated on our ability to develop natural resources for the benefits of our people and our country, a future viability of Alaska has been thrown into question in only a few short decades after***

*misled activism". Additionally, he writes, "Whether seeking political capital, donations from billionaires, or penance for misdeeds, the shameless profiteering from the economic suffering of Alaskans knows no bounds. Operatives tweet their condemnations using devices manufactured with metals from China as they fill their tanks with gas produced by old wells that flare and frack. Politicians from the states that have decimated their own salmon fisheries also make snide remarks as they eye higher office. The hypocrisy on this issue is palpable".*

It is clear that red tape and delay of environmentally friendly projects like IPOPs for purposes of developing valuable and necessary minerals and precious metals is not only hurting the United States as it falls behind China and Russia, but is causing financial suffering in Alaska. IPOP's project is the exact type of project that Governor Dunleavy is referencing. It is a low impact dredging project that will develop Alaska's gold resources (by Americans for Americans) to keep up with China and Russia and will provide millions/billions to Alaska, Alaskans and Nome. So not only is the President of the United States calling for projects like IPOP to be immediately permitted, but so is the Governor of Alaska. How many more elected officials need to support this project before it can start working? It could not be more clear that this project needs to be immediately permitted for the benefit of Nome, Alaska and the United States of America.

*Alaska & Nome Face a Budgetary Crisis the Likes of Which They Have Never Seen & IPOP Will Provide Millions/Billions to Alaska, Nome and the USA:* I am not an economist, but it is obvious Alaska needs money as Alaska has a scary budgetary crisis. Alaska's principal savings account outside the Permanent Fund will be exhausted by June 30, 2021. Alaska's deficit was \$1.29 billion in the last fiscal year per the Alaska Department of Revenue. The fact is that this is a fiscal budgetary crisis that Alaska has never seen before as the alarms are going off across the state. Alaskans, including the people and businesses of Nome, are suffering and things are getting worse, not better. There are no jobs, fishing industry has been decimated, tourism is gone, there is no money coming from the government and people are leaving the state in droves. Alaska needs projects like IPOP's to immediately go forward to provide jobs, and millions/billions to the state and Alaskans through royalties, taxes, and commerce. This is a no brainer.

There can be no doubt that Alaska, Nome, and the Federal government will receive billions of dollars over the life of the IPOP project. Alaska gets a 3% royalty of all gold produced and 7% mining tax. The federal government also gets substantial income taxes from IPOP. Additionally, Nome will get millions in business and commerce from IPOP through the purchase of fuel and supplies as well as other items like tourism. Most importantly, a considerable number of jobs will be created, benefitting the local Nome economy and families.

In summary, IPOP's project should be permitted immediately for the following reasons:

1. It is a simple dredging project that will have zero environmental impact;
2. The project employs not one, but two turbidity curtains;
3. There is little to no vegetation or inhabitants (fish, whales, etc.) in the areas that IPOP intends to dredge;
4. The Nome Port of Alaska is currently being dredged by the Corps without issue and is much more threatening and complex of a dredging project than IPOP's project;
5. The 45<sup>th</sup> President of the United States demanded, through executive order, that IPOP's project be immediately permitted to assist the economy and Alaska;
6. Governor Dunleavy wants to develop Alaska's resources through projects like IPOP's for the benefit of Alaska and Alaskans;
7. Alaska is in a fiscal crisis and Alaska and Alaskans need money immediately; and
8. IPOP will provide billions in royalties, taxes, commerce, tourism and jobs to Alaska, Nome and the Federal government.

I hope my words have enabled you to recognize what has been happening, and why I am asking for your help.

R Paul, IPOP Stakeholder

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

Please accept this letter as a request for help regarding the issuance of the Individual Permit to IPOPOP LLC placer mining for gold in the Bonanza Channel. I am well acquainted with the owner of IPOPOP, as I am one of over 150 limited partners of the IPOPOP dredge mining operation. I know the company and it's limited partners to have integrity, knowledge, expertise and passion for the project. I strongly support issuance of all permits to facilitate the mining operation and I am vehemently opposed to any and all delays to stall it. I am of the opinion that this is in the preeminent interest of Nome, the state of Alaska, the federal government and the great citizens of the United States.

The State of Alaska is presently suffering a significant budget deficit that was crucially worsened due to the COVID-19 disaster. Mining is one of the few things that can provide assistance in combatting this issue. Alaska will receive a royalty of 3% on all of the gold produced in addition to a mining tax and other business related taxes. The local government in Nome will also benefit from sales and tourism from the IPOPOP partners and employees.

IPOPOP will have a nominal footprint in the area. IPOPOP calculations predict that the dredge can process the sands and gravel from roughly 20 acres per mining season. This is a micro-scale portion of the 15,000 acres contained within the Safety Sound & Bonanza Channel area. The effect upon the use of the area for subsistence will be virtually nonexistent. In addition, the expectation is to return the floor profile virtually to its original condition using sonar and computer mapping. IPOPOP will not cause durable distress to the environment and IPOPOP will not add any chemicals to the water. Gravity alone is used to separate gold from sand.

This project will create numerous high paying mining jobs. IPOPOP exercises stringent hiring practices and personnel will not be a problem for the local community, they will benefit the community.

Some fallacious claims have been made regarding the channel area. Some of those claims are that there is no gold, eelgrass is present on the claims, the use of the equipment will create a colossal turbidity plume, it will kill fish, etc. IPOPOP has presented scientific data and evidence that confirms these statements are completely false.

I request the issuance of the Individual Permit to IPOP to allow mining to commence June 2021. There is virtually no risk to anyone other than the partners; however there is tremendous benefit to Alaska, Nome, and citizens of the nation.

Best Regards,

R. Randlett, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

*cc:*

*- IPOP, LLC*

*- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law*

*- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP*

*- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*



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Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I support the IPOP gold dredge mining project. Please support our efforts for the permit to mine our claims, we have been jumping through USACE hoops for over 4 years and still no permit.

I am a limited partner in the IPOP dredge mining operation, so I'm familiar with the project and the plans it has for its claims near Nome. In over 4 years we have not been issued permits, even though we have complied with every mandate and request the USACE has thrown at us. I understood President Trump on June 4, 2020 when he specifically stated there would be no more public comment periods, delaying the process and that miners need to start mining to bring relief to the economy. He was so committed to the economic recovery he issued an executive order about it. What I do not understand, is why an order from the President was not only ignored, but even extended – twice. The Army Corps Engineers is a federal agency so I should think they would be obligated to heed executive orders issued by the federal government.

IPOP mining will bring economic relief to Nome, and the state. IPOP has met the requirements for a permit. I'm not a government employee tasked with granting permits so I don't know what I'm missing there, but I do know the longer the Corps of Engineers waits, the less likely it is that the IPOP company can mine this season. Alaska needs the money and Alaskans need everything that comes with it.

I have seen the Facebook sites running a Stop IPOP movement and its pathetic. Anyone living in Nome knows there's no hunting or fishing where IPOP's claims are located. Kawarek might be able to fool some people but I'm not one of them. I hope they don't fool the Army Corps much longer but I lost some faith in the Corps when the last USACE project manager started talking to newspapers and radio stations, lying to people about the project. Either she can't read a report or she just has a vendetta against IPOP. Either way, Alaskans are suffering because of her, and if the Corps lets her get away with it then they're no better.

The permit needs to be given to IPOP so they can start mining and Alaskans have something to hope for. A lot of those tribes just don't want anyone to have anything other than their own people. They're trying to take control of state land with their lies and so called causes. I hope USACE is smarter than they are. I hope they don't let them do it. Sure, a very long time ago the Indians got shafted, but nobody today has suffered from it, so what's their beef? They have their own mines, they have their own land for hunting and fishing. They're like a bunch of kids who throw temper tantrums when they don't get their way. I don't let my kids get away with that. If I did, they too, would be running the show without the ability to do it.

I'm asking the Army Corps to issue permit and stop playing games. They're playing with people's lives. I'm asking you to ate in and get involved, not only for IPOP but for Alaska as well.

Yours truly,

R Renner, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:

- *IPOP, LLC*

- *J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law*

- *James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP*

- *Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

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Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
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Dear Commissioner Brune

I am writing to you in support of the IPOP mining proposal.

I am from Costa Rica, part Native American. I was born in the rainforest and have personally seen the “evils of the white man”, from the large corporation waging pivotal wars, to environmental destruction of rivers from foreign miners.

IPOP does not even begin to resemble what I have seen. IPOP has complied with requests and concerns for the last 4 years, while being a contributor to local business and taxes and a charitable influence in the community we are closest to, Nome. With that being said, I cannot understand why this simplistic permitting process has taken so long to administer by the Army Corps of Engineers. Per the USACE site, a permit should take **2-4 months**, while IPOP has waited **4 years** and continues to wait. IPOP has waited longer than that for permits to conduct tests and studies required of them by USACE.

After an unreasonable period of time, IPOP has finally been permitted to complete the required studies requested by the ACE to address and disprove the following public concerns:

1. the widespread existence of eelgrass, the total area is less than one-tenth-of-one-percent
2. turbidity in the water disturbing fish movement is mitigated by use of the Army Corp's approved method; a double turbidity curtain

Other concerns submitted in previous public comment periods which have been proven false are as follows:

1. Widespread and significant subsistence use - public records show from zero-6 subsistence permits listed in that area, the 6 being in Nome and 0 on or around IPOP claims. Even if the entire area were used, IPOP's operation is limited to approximately 20 acres. This does not infringe significantly on use, also being about one-tenth-of-one-percent. In other words, that

leaves subsistence hunters, berry pickers, nature walkers, bird watchers and picture takers 99.9% of the area for those activities – if there were such activities there.

2. Noise pollution adversely affecting wildlife. IPOP has taken every step in its custom equipment design to insulate and dampen decibel levels to within accepted published safe parameters for wildlife, which has been tested and proven to create less noise than the distant road from the barrier islands.

3. The Channel will be permanently altered. Again, from the beginning stages of our project IPOP has designed our equipment with full restoration/reclamation as its standard, using state-of-the-art sonar to map the bottom, and redistribute material to its original state, or better. And logically, does anyone truly believe that weather alone will not alter or correct the floor? After all, it *is* under water.

What I know to be true is that all mining operations are not evil. IPOP are most definitely the “good guys”.

Thank you,

Mrs. R. Young

*cc:*

*- IPOP, LLC*

*- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law*

*- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP*

*- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

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Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
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Thank you,

Mr. R. D. Young

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Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
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Dear Commissioner Brune

Please accept this letter as my request for your support and help regarding the IPOP dredge mining operation. I thank you for your time in this important issue. I am an IPOP limited partner *in favor* of a permit to IPOP, that we have been pursuing for over 4 years.

I am well aware of vocal opposition to the project; however, vocal opposition doesn't have the authority to override an Executive Order issued by the President of the United States. Vocal opposition cannot save the the economy of Alaska, feed families, pay taxes or yield income for the state of Alaska through its royalty and mining tax. Any and all vocal opposition from sovereign native tribes should obviously be dismissed, as they do not contribute to the economy of the state, only to their own.

As Governor Dunleavy articulated in his Op-Ed in The Hill: "*The simple truth is that for every project of Alaska unceremoniously canceled by mob rule, those natural resources in question will continue to be sourced from foreign suppliers that generate harmful pollution and human suffering*". I concur with the Governor.

IPOP is well aware of the non-tribal and tribal vocal opposition to the proposed project; however, those individuals do not possess an understanding of our project, to the environment of the Bonanza Channel and to the financial future of Nome and Alaska. **USACE falsely proclaimed that IPOP applied for a permit in Safety Sound which is untrue** and referencing it is deceitful and even unethical. This must be corrected to allow people to have a voice based on fact, not fiction. **All objections based upon untrue statements must be discarded and not taken into consideration or counted as opposition.**

I do not oppose the permitting process and have welcomed the agencies' due diligence and dedication to scrutinizing any project for environmental impact. I am pleased when IPOP was finally permitted to conduct much awaited testing and surveys to satisfy the concerns raised over the last 4 plus years in the multifarious public comment periods as scientifically unfounded. This too is an integral fact that should be publicized. USACE has accommodated a number of local newspapers and media outlets with interviews, specifically to discuss the IPOP project permits being held up (for over 4 years), why hasn't the USACE addressed the false statements they have made, or the concerns of the people who have been misled?

As agents of the USACE operating in accordance with this guideline, placing "*special emphasis on the persistence and permanence of the effects outlined in those subparts in evaluating a permit application*" USACE is duty bound to concur that IPOP has fulfilled every requested requirement and provided scientific data that incontestably proves there is no *persistence and permanence* in the effects of IPOP's operation. Anything less than that is not providing help to Alaska and its citizens, it is injurious to them, which could be interpreted as gross negligence or dereliction of duty.

There is a very small window of opportunity to facilitate the IPOP operation to commence mining this season of 2021. It is imperative that you act on it so Alaska can launch into economic recovery.

I very much appreciate and anticipate your prompt attention to the issues contained in

Sincerely,  
S. Bush

IPOP Limited Partner

cc:

- *IPOP, LLC*

- *J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law*

- *James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP*

- *Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*



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**Congressman Don Young**  
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Dear Commissioner Brune

I'm writing this letter to ask for your help. I am a limited partner in IPOPOP, LLC, a gold mining corporation with claims in the the Bonanza Channel just outside of Nome. I request your support and intervention in the decision to move forward with the issuance of all permits allowing IPOPOP to dredge in the Bonanza Channel to assist the state of Alaska in their financial crisis.

Mining is a long standing tradition in Alaska and is a dominant economic force in Alaska. Alaska needs IPOPOP's mining operations to assist in recovery of its current economic disaster.

IPOPOP has produced core samples with irrefutable physical evidence of abundant gold within its purchased claims. The extrapolation of gold in grams per ton are among the highest ever seen in Nome, a windfall that will immediately help reduce government budget deficits and allow Governor Dunleavy to potentially reinstate popular programs such as Ferry Service, satellite college campuses and numerous jobs that were unfortunately cut to mitigate spending and revenue. IPOPOP's local expenditures will continue to support a suffering community hammered by the pandemic crisis, resulting in an absolute absence of tourism.

IPOPOP has performed data research and collection, scientific studies, and has purchased the safeguarding double turbidity curtain to assure the concerns of the repeated public comment periods are met. IPOPOP has complied with all conditions and provided detailed operational intent in its application. The most recent scientific studies have been submitted to the Army Corps of Engineers and confirmed to have been reviewed.

In 2020 IPOPOP's permit application was deemed complete, and a public comment period ensued that spanned 2 months, July 31 – September 30, 2020, that should not have been accommodated, as it was in direct violation of an executive order issued by President Trump on June 4, 2020. It was nothing more than pandering to opposition to this project which is solely based on bias, greed, jealousy, discrimination, unsubstantiated allegations and untrue proclamations professed by certain Native Tribes, the USACE itself, and a handful of miners and fishing operations; none of whom are affected in any manner whatsoever by the IPOPOP mining operation. Now this year, 2021 USACE has decided that IPOPOP needs to perform a case study, for which a permit is required, and yet another comment period which too, was not only accommodated but extended. IPOPOP has endured over 4 years of this and I see no end in sight to it.

IPOP has scientifically proven its entitlement to mining permits. Opposition has proven absolutely nothing other than their ability to create irrationality, orchestrated photographs and Facebook sites. It is the responsibility of the USACE to issue a mining permit to IPOP based upon scientific evidence. Given the science IPOP has submitted, a permit should be issued. Please help.

Thank you,  
S. Drabek, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

*cc:*

- *IPOP, LLC*
- *J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law*
- *James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP*
- *Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

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Dear Commissioner Brune

**I approve of IPOP** and I am writing to offer my feedback of IPOP's project to dredge mine for gold in the Bonanza Channel and the issues with obtains the permit to do so.

I do have some objections; however, **they are not about IPOP**. I object to the manner in which this permitting process has been handled by the US Army Corps of Engineers thus far. I believe my objections to be valid and I urge you to carefully consider them.

RE PROOF OF GOLD:

OBJECTION 1. I object to the IPOP project manager at the USACE having spent at least three, possibly four years deceiving people about the IPOP project and the so-called damage it will cause, has never uttered a single word about the benefit IPOP will bring. She has falsely stated there is no gold on our claims. There is the presence of gold which had been proven with the core samples she required, and delivered to her at the USACE, deeming that objection dead.

RE PUBLIC COMMENT PHASE July 31-September 30, 2020:

Since gold was proven and that objection dead, USACE seemingly escalated by accommodating several interviews with KNOM and Nome Nugget. She informed the public of what to say in Nome Nugget on 8/7/2020: A good comment is more than "I hate the project" or "I love the project", she said. "Substantive, and meaningful comments are related to the project and connects a commenter's concerns with a specific aspect of the project. For example, if you are a geologist or miner you might have concerns, experience, information or questions about the proposed operation about geologic assumptions, or assay methods. If you subsistence fish in this area, you might have specific concerns about how the project would affect rearing habitat for a certain fish. The Corps wants to know, which aspect of the project would harm fisheries; which fishery and what time of year. When you fish, how many families rely on the food you catch," Tose said.

This is more than misleading. This project manager authored public comments and instructed people to lie. She was in possession of the tangible evidence refuting her statements, delivered to her at USACE by IPOP, which makes her false statements deliberate.

In a KNOM interview she deliberately misinformed the public that IPOP applied for a permit to dredge Safety Sound:

IPOP/Rivers of Gold Approved To Operate 6-Inch Test Dredge in Safety Sound

By [Davis Hovey](#) | August 12, 2019

She has knowingly misinformed the public that IPOP will destroy the environment, endangered wildlife including fish and birds and native tribal land: The best word to describe this proposed mining project, Tose says, is complex. "It's an area that has a lot of natural resources, there's five endangered species, five kinds of salmon, and four tribes. So right

there you have a tremendous amount of process involved that is external to the regular process that we [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers] go through." She knows full well that IPOP will endanger nothing, no person, and that they do not use, cross or encroach upon any tribal land. These are just a few of many examples of the methods she is using to sway the comments to her desired outcome, which she has made clear as no permit for IPOP - ever. She states deceptive negatives, yet fails to point out a single benefit, such as the discovery of gold that would be instrumental in the economic recovery of Alaska.

**OBJECTION 2:** I object to the withholding of key facts about IPOP's commitment to help in the economic recovery of Alaska. The economy of Alaska, along with most of the country; consequently, seems to have been hit especially hard. There is a government budget shortfall, a shortage of employment other than tribal and government jobs, with no apparent recovery plan for Nome or the state of Alaska. Lumber is now in Canada. Tourism is nonexistent for an indeterminate period of time. Oil prices had already bottomed out prior to the pandemic and after the Covid shutdown, Alaska had to sell off one of its major oil companies, so not much hope there. Gold prices, however, are rising. Mining is likely the only hope Alaska has for recovery. Alaska certainly isn't receiving one thin dime from Red Dog Mine - deemed by EPA to be the most toxic mine and the source of the most toxic waste in America - making millions as one of the worlds largest zinc mines, and all those millions are going to NANA (Native Tribe owned) and Teck Resources (Canadian owned); yet USACE approved that one. Why isn't she bringing up those points? It seems likely that if she cared one iota about the state or its citizens she would inform them of the benefits. IPOP will pay Alaska a 3% royalty and boost the economy in a number of other ways as well.

**OBJECTION 3:** I object to the objections themselves. If the people had been given the truth about the IPOP project, there would be very few who would object other than perhaps some native tribes. If there is a single negative comment from native tribes, especially given the fact that they are raking in millions from the toxic Red Dog Mine I believe they should be disregarded. They clearly have no objection to their own mines, why should they care about ours? They claim to be a sovereign nation, so why do they have a say at all? Giving them a voice in the IPOP project was again, Leslie Tose: The Corps is specifically looking for feedback on the potential subsistence impacts from this project. Those types of comments can be given directly to local tribal entities like Bering Straits Native Corporation (BSNC) or Kawerak. [Leslie Tose quote to KNOM August 11, 2020] IPOP claims are not on native land, do not cross native land, do not access native land to access their claims and have no impact on the tribes or their lands. the fact is, the tribes and miners objecting to the IPOP dredge mining operation are simply attempting to cut out the competition and the USACE is helping them.

The right to mine is protected in the Alaska Constitution. It doesn't have a preclusion for crusades within USACE or for people who simply don't like it. *Not everyone is going to like it.* Not everybody likes the Constitution either, but we haven't changed it for them - they still have to abide by it. Alaska is not an exception to that. Again, Alaska State Constitution grants an absolute right to mine state resources to all citizens of the United States. IPOP legally purchased the leases for their claims for the sole purpose of mining them. This wasn't done in a back door alley, it was fully disclosed. For over 4 years the state of Alaska has been accepting IPOP money for these leases, while disallowing the mining of them. I'm not sure that's even legal; at the very least it shouldn't be. IPOP has gone to great lengths to determine the validity of challenges that have been brought up in opposition to the project. These challenges have included turbidity, eelgrass, sound nuisance, etc. These challenges have all been answered by IPOP with truth and science, which has proven the issues to be non-issues.

**OBJECTION 4:** I object to the eelgrass misconception fostered by USACE. IPOP has provided tangible evidence that very little eelgrass is present in their claims; less than one acre out of over 600 acres. IPOP supports the environment. **IPOP does not add chemicals to the environment** and will not harm any eelgrass. They will use sonar and computer mapping to restore the dredged areas to their original form. And don't forget about the environmental destruction the other mining companies have caused, yet USACE signed off on those permits.

**OBJECTION 5:** I object to the subsistence argument on IPOP claims. There is the use of these inland waters for subsistence. There are approximately 15,000 acres of the land to use as subsistence for hunting and fishing. IPOP will only be able to mine roughly 20 acres per season with one dredge. What's the objection? 14,980 acres isn't enough for them, they absolutely must have the entire 15,000? The answer is no - 14,980 acres or 99.9% isn't enough because they want it all. The dredging will be done in areas that are very difficult to access. I'm reasonably certain they can fish, hunt, pick berries, birdwatch and picnic somewhere other than IPOPs specific 20 acres.

OBJECTION 6: I object to the clear and present conflicts of interest. USACE has had a clear conflict of interest as it pertains to the IPOP project from the beginning and the project manager should have recused herself. She has accommodated 11 interviews with KNOM and Nome Nugget since 2018. I realize she is no longer on the project as of Friday, September 4, 2020; however, that didn't stop her:

Army Corps Extends Comment Period For IPOP Project

[FRI, 09/04/2020 - 3:50PM](#)

BY: DIANA HAECKER

*On Monday, the Army Corps of Engineers Project Manager for the proposed IPOP gold mine project announced that the public comment period on the project has been extended to September 15. Project Manager Leslie Tose said in an email to the Nome Nugget that the comment period was extended to allow the agencies additional time to review bathymetric mapping and seagrass study information that was provided by the applicant in late August.*

It's a long article that also gives verbatim instructions for negative public comment. Given the date and the time of the article, she evidently sent the email to Nome Nugget from work, during work hours, shortly *after* she was pulled from the project, on my tax dollars. I presume this means that this interview is approved and supported by the Army Corps of Engineers. Is that why she still has access to our file, even though she has clearly proven her personal feelings about IPOP? This is of great concern as she has spent years sabotaging the IPOP operation in a number of ways. It's very easy to look up the articles to support this fact; however here is one more:

*Even with the sensitive nature of IPOP's proposed work, Tose points out that the current public comment period does not mean the Corps has made a decision or judgment about this gold mining project. In fact, she still views this as an early stage in the permitting process.* [August 11, 2020 KNOM] Early? It had been three years at that time and now we're at four years with no permit. Clearly, she never had any intention of granting that permit, and quite frankly, it looks like the entire agency (USACE) is no different.

IPOP has scientifically proven to USACE and all other agencies, the benefits of this project vastly outweigh any potential, unsubstantiated deficiencies. President Trump enacted an executive order to numerous agencies, including USACE, to bypass these tedious objections and sign off on the permits. Governor Dunleavy has made his position abundantly clear in favor of permitting for all miners who will benefit Alaska.

I believe USACE has an obligation to grant the regulatory permits needed for this project to proceed expeditiously, as the state is in dire need, and IPOP has proven time and time again that a permit is warranted. I deeply appreciate any consideration of support or help you can give to this matter.

Sincerely,

S Driscoll

IPOP Project Limited Partner

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am a limited partner in IPOP, LLC and I am requesting your help in the issuing of the Individual Permit for IPOP to commence suction dredge mining in June, 2021. Or at the very least, the approval of the permit for the Case Study requested by USACE. IPOP is willing to perform the case study; although, we do believe this is simply yet another stall tactic. In July 2020 there was a public comment period conducted, regarding the issuance of the Individual Permit. USACE received well over 350 letters in favor of this project (per John Budnik, USACE in Nome Nugget interview). Then this year, 2021, the USACE has required a case study and of course with that comes yet another comment period and of course an extension, which can eat away another 60 days into 2021 mining season.

Anybody interested in this project, as I obviously am, can plainly deduce that IPOP has been met with over 4 years of hindrance to this project from a few select native tribes and unfortunately, it's own project manager prior to the assignment of the current Senior Project Manager to the project. Notwithstanding, IPOP appears to have overcome the obstacles and has continued to persevere.

The delays and obstruction to the project have ranged from bias and unfair treatment, non-compliance to numerous response timelines to infringement of the rights of US citizens by conspicuous manipulation of a federal system – and everything in between. The IPOP aforementioned project manager is in verifiable violation of no less than 70% of the Standards of Ethics under the executive branch of the federal government, yet continues to work against this project, using her access to the records residing at USACE.

The few Native Tribes have not overtly violated any federal or state laws; however, they are guilty of unprincipled contrivance to support their agenda of dismantling the project and the IPOP corporation. This not in the best interest of any persons or entities in Alaska, Nome, or the nation. IPOP's limited partners are US citizens scattered throughout the country who are granted the right to mine Alaska's mineral resources in the Alaska State Constitution.

The Native Tribes do not possess the authority to control mining projects located on state land, such as IPOP. They deceived the Corps, to be granted the opportunity to participate in this public comment, by claiming they would be significantly impacted by the mining project. One in particular went so far as to claim that IPOP would have to use tribal land to access their claims, which she would not allow. This was a deliberate fabrication, as she had seen the map and knew full well that there is absolutely no encroachment, ingress or egress on tribal land.

IPOP has invalidated every objection with science, which cannot be refuted. Conversely, the opposers have failed to validate a single objection, but that hasn't stopped them. They continue to spread false information attributed to the Army Corps of Engineers, while the Corps continues to accommodate them.

From what I have seen, IPOP has proven their case for a permit and there is not a single reason to deny or delay the issuance of it to IPOP; furthermore, the Corps must not allow the disputants to disrupt this process any further.

I anticipate and appreciate your action on this matter.

Very truly yours,

S. Kuljis, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

*cc:*

*- IPOP, LLC*

*- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law*

*- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP*

*- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

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**Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang**  
Department of Fish and Game  
1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

As a limited partner in the IPOPOP dredge mining project, I support the issuance of permits to IPOPOP, LLC and am requesting your assistance and/or participation in the procurement of the Individual Permit. Thank you for this opportunity to reach out to you in the consideration of the approval of the IPOPOP permit for the mining of gold in the Bonanza Channel.

I believe it is about time to at last hear IPOPOP's scientific rebuttals heard. Concerns raised over the last 4 years in multiple public comment periods, multiple Nome Nugget interviews, Facebook campaigns, etc., have been unsubstantiated, and yet have continually held up the process.

Widespread eel grass prevalence has been disproved; as a matter of fact, the Alaskan west coastline is the most abundant source of eelgrass in the state, and likely the country. IPOPOP has mitigated turbidity disturbance with the use of a double curtain, subsistence use according to public record is next to nothing, high-end sonar and reclamation processes will not leave the channel waterways permanently disfigured or negatively altered, sound reduction equipment will keep decibel levels within the range acceptable for non disturbance of wildlife, and gold presence has been proven through coring samples, although it is still being claimed, and has also delayed the project.

The huge revenue from the untapped and vast gold source will be a godsend to Alaska's faltering economy. IPOPOP has endured the permitting process and multiple unqualified delays, complied with requests, and provided data to back up their commitment to an environmentally sound operation.

I believe it is time to get some money to Alaska, bolster the budget and get to the recovery process. IPOPOP's equipment is ready to move out of the yard and mine, and I imagine Alaska is ready to recover. Thank you for any assistance you can provide.

S. Padilla, Limited Partner IPOPOP LLC

cc:  
- IPOPOP, LLC  
- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law  
- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP  
- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
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Dear Commissioner Brune

This letter serves as my plea for support and assistance if you are able to provide both or either. I am a backer of the IPOP dredge mining operation in the Bonanza Channel. For the past 4 years USACE has been playing games, withholding our permit and violating our right to mine our claims.

I lived in Alaska for years. I have been a hunter for decades, so I was very interested in this project for a number of reasons. I also have family residing in Alaska where my brother-in-law is a miner and they are in financial trouble.

I followed the IPOP mining scuttlebutt for about 2 years before becoming a limited partner and I was very surprised when I read the public notice. It actually led me to do some research on the project and I wondered why the A.C.E. hasn't been interested in bringing some economic relief to Nome, and the whole state for that matter. Additionally, the area where IPOP claims are situated are nowhere near subsistence activities. No hunter will go there to hunt, simply because wildlife doesn't go to the shallow waters. In short, the fish won't go there because the water is too shallow and the wildlife won't go there because there is nothing to eat.

I found a number of articles in Nome Nugget and KNOM regarding IPOP. Every article includes an interview with a USACE employee who was the project manager for IPOP. The interviewee, painted such a negative picture of IPOP, I thought I misread that it was the project manager at the Army Corps of Engineers. I saw a Facebook site, Stop IPOP: Keep Safety Safe. They claim to be about protecting Safety Sound which is "under threat from IPOP". I have seen the location on maps, Google Earth, etc., and this cause isn't even a cause; although that's how it is categorized. IPOP is posing no threat to anybody, not even animals. I'm ashamed to admit that for 2 years I blindly believed what was being said by a few people, who really thought IPOP would be the end of their chance for survival. I have since educated them on what I discovered; however, it's hard to believe that the A.C.E. would participate in this. That has to be some sort of a conflict of interest, I would think.

It is very obvious that IPOP is in compliance with the requirements for the permit to mine, so I'm wondering why we aren't mining yet. My guess is because their former/current/co-project manager has an obvious bias against IPOP and is unwilling to let it go. Alaska needs help and I can't think of another means of getting it. IPOP is more environmentally friendly than any other mining operation in Alaska,

and possibly even the country. This grudge a USACE employee is carrying against IPOP is hurting the state, Nome and in truth, the country.

The IPOP permits should be issued immediately, without further delay. The case against a permit for IPOP has failed. Conversely, IPOP has provided scientific findings to prove their case *for* a permit beyond any doubt.

The individuals and families of Alaska need this project. Please issue the permit so IPOP can mine in the this 2021 season.

Truly,  
S. Vickery, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:

- *IPOP, LLC*
- *J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law*
- *James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP*
- *Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

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Dear Commissioner Brune

I am writing to you to ask for your help. I am one of 150+ backers in the IPOP dredge mining operation. For the past 4 years, IPOP has been attempting to obtain approval and issuance of the Individual Permit to mine its legally procured claims.

I commend IPOP and appreciate their commitment to assist in the recovery of Alaska. I am proud to be a limited partner in the IPOP dredge mining operation in the Bonanza Channel near Nome, and serve my country by being involved in an economic recovery.

IPOP has been ready to mine its claims for over 4 years and is still ready to begin mining this season. With the record warming this year, there is time to commence mining on June 1, 2021 with issuance of a permit. There is time for Alaska to begin receiving revenue and have a proven resource to incorporate into the 2022 budget.

I commend IPOP for having the insight to determine that in a forgotten, unused area of Nome, believed to be vacant of gold, was likely to be teeming with the resource. An area that is not only a mineral resource trove, but one that mining it will not adversely affect a person, a life, a business or any species of wildlife. I admire IPOP for their cutting-edge shallow water mining equipment changing the way minerals are being sourced, equipment quiet enough to not exceed wildlife regulations.

You may have heard public comments containing contrary opinions based on emotion. I appreciate your responsibility to identify fact from fiction and science from fervor with unbiased objectivity. I advocate for science and data submitted to the Corps, not frenzied ambitions of a campaign antagonistic to progress or prosperity of anyone but themselves.

I applaud IPOP for introducing an operation to Nome that will bring immediate advantage to a state with a flailing economy due to a worldwide crisis. Royalty tax on mining proceeds will augment the state budget shortage instantly and allocate incoming tax revenues for upcoming budget proposals.

Based upon fact and science, it is evident that IPOP is deserving of a permit for 2021, and I genuinely hope you can help us.

Very truly yours,

S. Villa Laughead, IPOP LLC Backer

*cc:*

*- IPOP, LLC*

*- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law*

*- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP*

*- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

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Congressman Don Young  
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Dear Commissioner Brune

I request your assistance in helping the IPOP dredge mining operation with permit approval and issuance to mine their claims in the Bonanza Channel.

I favor this project not only because I am a limited partner in the IPOP dredge mining operation but also because as a United States natural born citizen I have great concern about the current economic disaster in Alaska. The mineral resources of Alaska was the very reason for the purchase of the state by the United States from Russia. The very reason Alaska was subsequently admitted into the union as the 49<sup>th</sup> State was to create prosperity for **all** Americans to thrive. Alaska, as part of the deal, wrote the rights to mine for **all American citizens** into their own state constitution. *IPOP supports Alaska's great tradition of mining and wealth creation, as evidenced in the latest scientific studies submitted to the USACE*

Native Tribes near Nome are quite angrily expressing some discontent about this project. They are convinced that they are powerful enough to stop IPOP and put over 150 Americans out of business. I am in possession of evidence that our rogue project manager (now former) was successful in convincing a few of the tribes of this by availing herself as their insider; unfortunately for them, she was removed from the project and that threw a monkey wrench into their underhanded plans. They have accelerated their tactics since then, with a number of maneuvers to convince the USACE that IPOP is evil and cannot mine their own claims. They claim this is of great important to them, yet they have failed to conduct or submit a single scientific study to refute IPOP's studies and science. They are acutely aware that they haven't a trace of a possibility of succeeding with that, so they have resorted to the subsistence subterfuge, among a few other ridiculous proclamations.

The new subsistence ploy of 'IPOP will starve our families and they don't even care' is the nature of their continued rhetoric. Anyone in or around Nome knows this is pure rubbish; the location of IPOP claims can't be used for subsistence with no animals or fish present.

Additionally, IPOPOP has researched subsistence hunting permit records to discover that the category these permits fall into are the 0-6 range. I would have to say that a grand total of 6 or fewer permits – ever – cannot qualify as any effect, let alone significant.

IPOPOP made a request of the USACE to host a meeting with the opposing Native Tribes in an effort to assuage their fears and hopefully create a camaraderie. The request was ignored by IPOPOP's then project manager, Leslie Tose. At one point IPOPOP did in fact have a meeting with Liz Johnson of Solomon Village, when only 20 minutes into it Ms. Johnson abruptly left the meeting without explanation when she was informed of the benign nature of the project – I believe that is called “storming out”. IPOPOP has made numerous additional direct attempts to meet with the Native Tribes, to no avail, as *they* were and still are the ones refusing to meet. It is interesting that they have conveniently forgotten about the town hall meeting IPOPOP hosted.

Mining and fishing are longstanding traditions in Alaska and the two industries must coexist, as they have for years. I live with my husband in the hub of a very high populace centre city in Southern California, yet we find raccoons and aardvarks in our yard and coyotes are abundant. In other words, everything and everyone adjusts, and happily coexists. The IPOPOP project does not interfere with fishing, subsistence, eelgrass, spawning, environment or anything else; therefore, there is no valid reason to deny the permit based upon opposition.

Opposing IPOPOP is an acute rebuke to every Alaskan who truly appreciates the relevance of mining Alaska's precious mineral resources for their own benefit while protecting individual rights. Many of these people have been deliberately misinformed by a USACE project manager with unscrupulous intent, who has been a driving force behind their fears for over 4 years. IPOPOP's operation will soon alleviate those fears while paving the way of the future for all mining, employing a revolutionary technique of a safe and environmentally sound procedure for all miners.

I request your help for IPOPOP and hope for Alaska and our national economy.

Sincerely,  
S. Wilson, Limited Partner IPOPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOPOP, LLC
- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law
- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP
- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Commissioner Brune: Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I would like to express my support for IPOP and this project to mine placer gold from the Bonanza Channel and ask for your help. I am one of the many IPOP backers in this project and I support the issuance of all necessary permits. Unfortunately, the USACE doesn't show signs of any intent to allow IPOP to mine its claims. I believe it is pertinent to mention that IPOP claims are on State land only – not federal, not native - **State only**.

This project is about as friendly as it gets. There is virtually no risk to the local environment. The proposed operation will only involve dredging sand and water, removing the gold, and returning the sand and water to the place from which it was removed. **No chemicals** will be used in the processing of the gold.

A double turbidity curtain will be used to enclose completely the area being dredged. No fish, birds, or animals will be harmed. Turbidity curtains are approved for use by the Corps and by the EPA in other locations. All of the equipment to be used has the best sound reduction currently available. We expect that one dredge will mine 10 to 20 acres in a season. This is a tiny fraction of the entire Safety Sound / Bonanza Channel area.

It has been stated that this area is used for subsistence hunting and fishing. I will dispute this, as the area that we will dredge per season is very small and that our effect upon any wildlife in the area will also be small. Also, the effects of weather will erase our actions in a few seasons. Additionally, public records refute the claim. Any reasonable person knows that families are not going to starve with only 14,980 acres in which to subsistence hunt, which 99.9% of the area; however, that is in fact what the native tribes are claiming, and USACE is not only complicit in this claim, there are helping them with the proper verbiage to use.

This project will produce gold in very significant amounts. Using conservative estimates, IPOP believes that it can produce well over 100,000 troy ounces of gold per season. Alaska will receive 3% of this as royalties. This will significantly impact Alaska's present budget shortfall positively. The IPOP partners will pay income taxes to the US Treasury on their portion of the income. This could be \$50 million per year or more for the federal government. Nome will receive sales taxes and tourism from the partners, and local businesses will benefit from selling fuel and supplies to IPOP.

Alaska must develop its resources to create jobs and to produce wealth and support the local, state, and federal governments. It is not feasible for everyone to receive government assistance. Someone must produce goods and services. IPOP stands ready to do its part to support these entities and the economy as a whole.

These inland waters are the property of the State of Alaska. IPOP has lawfully leased these inland waters from the State of Alaska for the purpose of mining. The economy is teetering on the brink of recession due to the disastrous CoVid-19 economic crisis. Someone has to pay taxes to pay for all the programs that people demand and someone must create jobs for those who seek work. IPOP is ready, willing, and able to accept risks and to take meaningful action to benefit the nation. IPOP's employees are carefully screened and IPOP practices strict on-site rules and regulations.

We are lawful and responsible citizens, and we will fully comply with the terms of the permit and all applicable laws. IPOP can create jobs and produce revenue for Alaska and for the federal government. I urge you to aid in the issuance of the Individual Permit to IPOP to commence mining its claims in June 2021

Sincerely,

T. Bednarz, IPOP LLC Backer

*cc:*

*- IPOP, LLC*

*- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law*

*- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP*

*- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*



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**Congressman Don Young**  
**2314 Rayburn House Office Building**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am a limited partner in the IPOPOP dredge mining operation and hereby offer my support for the IPOPOP gold mining project and request any assistance you can offer in the approval of a mining permit. I believe this project will be the greatest thing that has come to Alaska since the 1898 Klondike Gold Rush.

I love America and I am of the belief that it is the obligation of the US Army Corps of Engineers to approve and permit any project possessing the ability to create wealth, prosperity and opportunities for our great nation. IPOPOP has scientifically proven itself to be that project.

Core samples taken from IPOPOP claims indicate significant gold presence in remunerative amounts. Conservative estimates conclude that IPOPOP can produce well over 100,000 troy ounces of gold per season, of which Alaska will receive 3% as royalties.

The outlying location of IPOPOP claims is so remote and isolated, even the local residents do not use the land. IPOPOP proposes to dredge approximately 20 acres per season with one dredge, which is 1/10 of 1% of the entire Safety Sound / Bonanza Channel inland waterway consisting of roughly 12,000 acres, which means 99.9% of the area is wide open for use.

Ridiculous statements have been made by some Native Tribes, some local miners, and USACE regarding the Bonanza Channel area where IPOPOP claims are situated. I will refer to these people as “the protesters” herewith. Initially, they claimed there is no gold on IPOPOP claims in these specific inland waters – after IPOPOP proved there was indeed gold there, and lots of it, they changed their protestations to “not enough gold there”.

They protested about the presence of abundant eelgrass on the claims – and continue to do so, even after IPOPOP disproved the protestation with scientific studies. It is outrageous that IPOPOP was forced to prove not only presence, but quantity of gold on gold mining claims purchased from the State of Alaska and present its findings to USACE.

They protested that dredging in these waters will create turbidity that will prevent salmon from spawning – and continue to do so even after IPOPOP submitted scientific testing evidence proving this to be false, especially while employing a double turbidity curtain. Now they are claiming that “everyone knows turbidity curtains don’t work”. I can only presume they are unaware that the USACE uses turbidity curtains for their own dredging projects throughout the country.

They protest that local residents and Native Tribes use the area for subsistence to feed their families. They continue to make this claim, even after IPOPOP has proven this protestation false with the submission of governmental records of hunting and community harvest logs of Tiers 1 and 2, confirming there are NO such hunting threats to the Native Tribes in the Bonanza Channel region. This area falls within the 0-6 permit issuance category.

They falsely protest IPOP, claiming the operation does not employ practical methods for dredging, and will destroy the land with their encampment. They continue to hold on to this fraudulent narrative, even after IPOP has scientifically disproven this as well. How is it impractical to use gravity to separate gold from sand, using no chemicals? It doesn't get much simpler than using only gravity. The encampment isn't situated on lush rolling hillsides that will be destroyed by the temporary structures. The area is prone to weeds due to lack of usage and will be left in pristine condition when IPOP is done for the season.

They accuse IPOP of being uncharitable and callous, even after eagerly accepting hundreds of thousands of dollars in charitable contributions. Aggregately, IPOP has spent millions in Nome and has donated to some very honorable charities. They knowingly lie about IPOP refusing to meet with Native Tribes, even though they are aware that IPOP possesses proof of the number of times it has requested to meet with them. These meetings never came to fruition because the protesters refused to meet with IPOP. There was one meeting with Liz Johnson of Solomon Village that only lasted 20 minutes when she abruptly stormed out of meeting without explanation.

They are fully aware that IPOP is not detrimental to the environment, but rather beneficial to the environment. And let's not kid ourselves, given the chemicals they use, and the absolute destruction they cause to lands with their own mining projects, it's quite a stretch to believe they have any environmental concerns whatsoever.

The inane rhetoric from the protesters goes on to claim every atrocity imaginable, even going so far as to derogatorily label IPOP as a California conglomerate threatening to ruin Nome and everything else in its path. Please remember *who* these protesters are, that have been making these ridiculous allegations for the past 4+ years. IPOP has proven every last one of these assertions to be mendacious propaganda, with science, written requests to the USACE to host a meeting with Native Tribes (which was ignored), an actual meeting with a Tribal Leader, etc.

The Constitution of Alaska provides for every citizen over the age of 18, the right to mine mineral resources, and IPOP has lawfully leased these inland water claims from the State of Alaska for the sole purpose of mining. IPOP has the right to mine, provided it does so in a manner consistent with all applicable laws and regulations – which IPOP has provided in its Plan of Operation.

I deeply appreciate any assistance you can offer. Thank you.

Regards,

T. Cannon, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

As a limited partner in the IPOP dredge mining operation I am a supporter of IPOP, and of the rights of United States citizens to mine the mineral resources of the state of Alaska.

I am of the opinion that it is pivotal to address the fallacious arguments coming from those in opposition to the IPOP suction dredge mining project. Since 2017, notwithstanding with the interference of the very agency in charge of issuing the permit – the USACE itself, IPOP has been attempting to obtain a permit to mine its legally obtained claims in the Bonanza Channel.

Since 2017 IPOP has made several attempts to meet with and make presentations to the tribes opposing the project. IPOP deemed it to be relevantly critical to advise the citizens of the great benefits this project will bring to them, and hosted a town hall meeting – we never seem to hear about that. IPOP has made a massive gold discovery, Alaska, as IPOP's Royalty Partner, will of course receive 3% of the revenues every year. I imagine there are a number of Alaskans who could use recovery about now. Commerce will increase, tourism will rise, the budget will benefit, the Permanent Fund will be safer, and much more.

Since 2017 IPOP has been through numerous delays and obstruction by the Army Corps of Engineers, who has demonstratively been far from impartial. The Corps has actively assisted the native organizations in opposition to IPOP to kill this project. It is well known in Alaska that native organizations historically oppose nearly every proposed project in Alaska involving mineral resources, and this project is no exception; however, the other mining projects are actively mining, while IPOP is not.

Since 2017, numerous USACE guidelines and regulations have been violated by IPOP's USACE project manager – now former project manager since September 4, 2020 for reasons unknown to IPOP. Meanwhile, IPOP has proven that it has no intention of abandoning its massive gold discovery in the Bonanza channel, which will provide hundreds of millions of dollars to Alaska. IPOP is a faith and charity based as an operation.

Since 2017 IPOP has spent millions in town and has made numerous charitable contributions. Despite this, the local tribal organizations falsely claim that IPOP has failed at community outreach. Nothing could be further from the truth. There are certain native organizations in Nome continuing a slanderous and libelous campaign of lies and false allegations against IPOP. I acknowledge that this USACE employee is no longer on the IPOP project, but that hasn't stopped the unethical behavior and participation in conducting anti-IPOP surveys from USACE during work hours.

IPOP was hopeful and even convinced that scientific reports based on science and conducted at great expense, would overcome the emotional hysteria that seem to be present by these same organizations. The success of the mineral exploration in Alaska built the state, yet the Prudhoe Bay discovery money is running out. What then? Alaska cannot afford to take another hit to their budget. When your shoes are at the end of their useful life, do you replace them or go barefoot in hopes that someone will give you another another pair? The USACE should work with IPOP, not against it. Alaska has the mineral wealth Alaskans and all Americans deserve.

I ask for your support and assistance of the IPOP dredge mining project and the issuance of the permit to mine the claims.

Very truly yours,

T. C. Stompler  
Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Washington, DC 20001-1512

Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang  
Department of Fish and Game  
1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am a backer of IPOP's gold dredge mining operation in the Bonanza Channel, and pleased to share my support in a decision to advance the issuances of all permits. IPOP is ready to begin mining this season, and I hope the US ACE is ready to issue a permit to accomplish this; however, IPOP has been waiting on the USACE to issue the permit for 4+ years and is still waiting. I ask for your support of this project and the issuance of the required permits.

IPOP and its partners are enthusiastically eager to be involved in reshaping the process of how minerals are sourced. IPOP's design and construction of water mining equipment revolutionizes the process in placer mining. No discharge of chemicals or pollutants, sonar mapping for a reclamation process, leaving the site identical or more enhanced than before, and equipment quiet enough so as not to exceed wildlife regulations. The IPOP operation will be the pioneer in a departure from messy mining operations that damage the environment or interfere with wildlife.

Over a year ago, IPOP submitted a completed permit request, then waited through a 60 day public comment period that commenced on July 31, 2020. This is significant because on June 4, 2020 President Trump issued and enacted an executive order, specifically ordering federal agencies to do away with the public comment phase of permit approvals. Additionally, the public comment had been compromised by IPOP's former USACE project manager initially assigned to the IPOP project with negative and untrue statements about the project and the company. Nobody can undo what has already been done; however, we can redirect the future. The Corps was off to a good start, removing her from the project 3 weeks prior to the expiration of the public comment phase; however, they couldn't undo the damage she had done.

IPOP has complied with requests to alleviate public comment concerns. Many times along the way IPOP has been interminably delayed for the permits to simply perform the tests being asked of them, many that had already been performed and submitted (coring, vegetation, environmental impact and turbidity) for example. IPOP is neither seeking nor expecting preferential treatment or favors for the permitting process, but *does* expecting fair, unbiased treatment. The project should have been approved and permitted upon review of IPOP's most recent studies, which would have in fact been fair and unbiased treatment; unfortunately, that didn't happen. The Corps should have expedited the permitting process, given the numerous unwarranted delays, instead IPOP was tasked with even more tests and studies. When or *if* the Corps delves into the history of this project, they will find that

this process has in fact been unfairly delayed and obstructed. Among numerous unethical offenses, there are also a number of regulatory response times violated by the Corps.

IPOP needs to commence mining this season on June 1, 2021. The time is very limited but there is in fact still time to make that happen. The Corps has kept us waiting over 4 years and cost us millions more than we should have spent.

I expect the Corps to accept scientific data, abandon the theatrical, unfounded protestations and determine that IPOP has proven to be an asset to Alaska, deserving of mining permits for 2021.

Very truly yours,

T Daugherty IPOP LLC Backer

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

As a limited partner in IPOP, I am reaching out to you to show our support for approval and issuance of all permits for IPOP and ask for your help in the issuance of our permit. I sincerely hope that perhaps an intervention can help cut through the mire that has been delaying this process.

I understand and welcome the due diligence and review of any permit application. Environment, historical use, and potential monetary gain for the State should be taken into account. That is what IPOP has always been more than willing to participate in, but has been continuously diverted from doing, through what I have observed as arbitrarily imposed delays.

IPOP has clearly and undeniably demonstrated the necessary technical prowess, and provided the necessary studies and mitigation plans to alleviate any environmental concerns presented both in the multiple public commentary periods and those of the Agencies charged with the Stewardship of the area.

Of course we are partners invested in what we are quite certain will be a lucrative venture, but we want you to know, we also take great personal pride in the fact that part of our success will be shared with the people of Alaska, and directly help at least one of our 50 states to bounce back more quickly from the devastating economic effects of Covid-19.

USACE is in possession of the detailed application and the requested studies. We are ready to immediately commence mining...our equipment and crew is literally standing by.

I hope you will agree with the State Agencies and all the evidence provided, that approval and issuance of a 2021 mining permit is warranted and long overdue - by at least 4 years at this point.

Thank you in advance for any help you can provide to IPOP, its limited partnership and the State of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Tom K, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**Governor Mike Dunleavy**  
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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am writing to you to convey my support for the above referenced project, in favor of a permit for IPOP. I am also requesting your help in procuring the permit that has been delayed for over 4 years.

IPOP has the equipment to implement this project safely, without causing perpetual environmental injury.

There are individuals residing in Nome, who object to this project. Their concerns have been addressed; furthermore, they do not possess unilateral veto power. The Constitution of Alaska provides for the right to mine claims. IPOP has lawfully purchased leases on Bonanza Channel inland waters from the State of Alaska for the sole purpose of mining. The State of Alaska was fully aware of this purpose, accepted the money for it, then spent the next four years denying IPOP the permit to mine said claims. This type of obstruction can have a negative effect on potential purchases of mining claims in the future. Additionally, it just doesn't look good for the Army Corps of Engineers. Why would any miner want to buy leases on claims if they won't be able to mine them? Many miners will not have the millions of dollars to spend on repeated tests and delays it has cost IPOP.

The IPOP operation is consistent with applicable laws and regulations and appears to have provided everything USACE has required of them; therefore, from a legal standpoint the permits must be issued to them immediately. I question the legality of selling gold mining claims and then denying the purchaser the right to mine them. Are there applicable laws about that?

This mining project has proven to have gold on our claims in significant amounts. Using conservative estimates, IPOP gives credence to core samples demonstrating that it will very likely produce in excess of 100,000 troy ounces of gold per season. Alaska receives 3% of that in royalties. The royalty alone will go a long way to solve Alaska's current budget shortfall. Maybe we can even get the ferry up and running again. IPOP's partners will pay income taxes to the United States Treasury on their part of the income. That could come to \$50 million per year or more for the federal government. Nome will receive sales taxes and tourism from the partners, and local businesses will sell fuel and supplies to IPOP. Alaska is experiencing an economic disaster and the USACE has been blocking this permit that in all probability will be a saving grace for the state. I must question the impetus for this.



The area IPOPOP proposes to mine is an inland waterway that hasn't been used for subsistence in years, if ever. In 10 years I know of only two people being seen there by some local area residents.

I do know that the area of those specific inland waters is around 15,000 acres. IPOPOP proposes to mine 20 acres per season. This is not a reason to hold up the project. Is anyone going to suffer if they can't go to a remote, difficult to access area to pick berries? On the other hand, how many people will continue to suffer from the current economic disaster with no help in sight?

IPOPOP has been clear about their methods causing no desecration to the environment and using no chemicals for mining. Our equipment is insulated for noise reduction and the low noise level is no louder than the sound from the nearby road on the barrier islands.

The Native Tribes throwing a hissy fit over this project are jealous control freaks who don't want anyone outside of their own sovereign nation to thrive and they're trying to control State land. The other miners who are up in arms about it are simply jealous that IPOPOP found gold there and they didn't. These are not reasons to shut IPOPOP down. These should be indicative of a windfall for Alaskans and Nome.

IPOPOP recognizes the importance of this project and have conveyed a feeling of being honored to be a factor in the recovery of the Alaska economy. IPOPOP has a decisive obligation to create wealth and opportunities, not only for Alaska, but for our nation as well. In addition, many of the partners are professional business persons who have the experience useful to this project. In Nome, business owners have spoken very highly of the team and have referred to them as friendly, generous and polite.

It is critical to Alaska and to Nome that IPOPOP be issued the permits to begin operation this 2021 season, commencing June 1. I have never been one to judge, nor do I appreciate being judged and IPOPOP needs to be given a chance. Please help give us that chance.

Very truly yours,

T. Renella, IPOPOP LLC Backer

cc:

- IPOPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

This letter serves as a request for your support and assistance. I disclose that that I fully support the issuance of a mining permit to IPOPOP LLC to mine their claims in the Bonanza Channel and that I am a limited partner in this project.

My passion for the IPOPOP suction dredge mining project is that it will create high paying jobs, and that the company has a zero-tolerance policy regarding alcohol, tobacco, and drugs, will be of great benefit to the Nome community and will bring economic recovery to not only the company and the project limited partners, but to the federal government (which I believe is imperative right now), the numerous states whereupon limited partners reside, the town of Nome and the entire State of Alaska (which I also believe is imperative right now).

As you know, IPOPOP will provide a 3% royalty and taxes to Alaska as well as income taxes to the federal government and state governments. IPOPOP has proven the presence of significant amounts of gold on their legally leased claims on the Bonanza Channel, and has presented supporting evidence of it in their permit application submitted to the Army Corps of Engineers, and the state agencies as well. As a limited partner, I am well aware of the amount of grams per ton, and it is truly monumental. Judging from the pictures that have been posted by a group opposed to the company and the project, anyone can see this was a significant amount of gold, not just a sprinkle of dust. This will be very good news for Alaska, it's tourism, Permanent Fund and economic recovery.

I am delighted that IPOPOP's processing method is environmentally friendly, and does not use chemicals, only gravity to separate the gold from the sands and gravel. Restoring the bottom profile to its original condition or better by using sonar and computer mapping, is an ingenious process with proven success.

The year 2020 was a rough one with the CoVid crisis destroying the nation's economy at local, state, and national levels. Private enterprise is essential to recovery by creating job opportunities wherever possible. In June 2020 President Trump issued an Executive Order directing federal agencies to expedite this process where possible, including the elimination of the public comment process. This project should have commenced at least 2-3 years ago, but at the very least IPOPOP should have been issued the Individual Permit about a year ago, had the executive order been heeded. Loss of revenue is well into the millions for IPOPOP, its limited partners, the nation and especially Alaska.

I confidently state that the Individual Permit to mine should be issued to IPOPOP without delay, and I humbly request your assistance to try make that happen, commencing June, 2021.

T. Zamboni-Rutledge

cc:  
- IPOPOP, LLC

- *J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law*
- *James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP*
- *Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

**Governor Mike Dunleavy**  
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1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am a backer in the IPOP dredge mining operation, in favor of IPOP and this project to mine placer gold from the Bonanza Channel. For 4 years now, IPOP has bent over backward to accommodate every request and requirement issued to them by USACE, yet, we still have no permit to mine our claims.

The crux of this matter is:

1. IPOP has the right to mine Alaska's mineral resources per Alaska State Constitution.
2. IPOP has supported and proven their case for a permit to mine, with scientific studies, testing and facts
3. The opposition has only submitted false, unsupported allegations against the IPOP mining operation
4. The opposition has failed to provide a single scientific study or test to support their allegations against IPOP

Therefore, from a standpoint of simple logic, IPOP wins the debate and the mining permit.

Any support and help you can give us to finally be granted a permit is greatly appreciated.

Yours Truly,

V. Lopez, IPOP LLC Backer

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I believe in the IPOP mining project because I am of the opinion that it will bring relief and prosperity to Alaska and to the country at a very opportune time. I believe in this project not only because I am a limited partner in it, but because it's a good project and a good company. IPOP has withstood everything USACE has thrown at it and proven all the naysayers wrong.

Upon USACE approval of IPOP's most recent submittal of their application for the Individual Permit, the USACE initiated a public comment period (contrary to a Presidential order issued in June, one month earlier). Per John Budnik, USACE, in a Nome Nugget interview, *he* received over 350 letters. I have personal knowledge that the IPOP limited partners and many of their friends, family and acquaintances (who are not involved in the project) sent well over 200 letters to the ASACE in support of the project; however they sent the letters to Leslie Tose and subsequently Tiffany Kwakwa upon the removal of Leslie Tose from the project.

Per pages 5 – 6 of the 2020 Public Notice POA-2018-00123, it was clear that IPOP has met the criteria for a permit, as addressed below:~

1. CULTURAL RESOURCES: There are no cultural resources in the permit area or within the vicinity of the permit area, per AHRS
2. ENDANGERED SPECIES: Despite claims to the contrary, none of the species listed have been sighted on or around IPOP claims for any longer than a few minutes. They do not inhabit the area of IPOP claims because the water is too shallow.
3. ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The project area is *not* within the known range of immature chum salmon that will be adversely affected by IPOP activity, and the statement to the contrary is nothing but one more of the numerous stall tactics employed by the person at the Army Corp of Engineers who authored the Public Notice
4. TRIBAL CONSULTATION: Tribes do not possess protected rights on or around IPOP claim, nor will they be adversely affected in any manner, let alone *significantly*
5. PUBLIC HEARING: To my knowledge, this has not been requested by opponents to the project
6. EVALUATION: IPOP has submitted science, data, documentation and even core samples to prove gold. IPOP has fulfilled the requirement of national concern for protection and utilization of important resources.

IPOP has proven the presence of gold with the core sample, the 3% royalty will be millions, federal taxes will be paid by IPOP and its partners. IPOP's submittals to the Corps fulfill the need of positive impact as it relates to conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

That was about a year ago, yet here IPOP is, still performing more studies and testing in hopes of the permit.

IPOP has stepped up, performed and met the criteria. The opposers have made one false claim after another. Simply *saying* you saw a Spectacled Eider or anything else on IPOP claims doesn't make it true, I can say I saw Santa Claus, but if I can't prove it, it's nothing but words.

I ask you to believe the science and balance that against unproven statements. I ask you to help IPOP, who will in turn help Alaska. This project will boost Nome economy, tourism, unemployment, commerce, taxes, etc. The entire country desperately needs recovery, why not start in Alaska? Please help.

Respectfully,

V. Lutes, IPOP LLC Backer

---

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I advocate for the IPOP dredge mining operation and immediate issuance of all necessary permits to IPOP to allow for dredging in the Bonanza Channel. IPOP is in possession of lawfully leased mining claims on the property of the State of Alaska; furthermore, the Alaska State Constitution guarantees them the right to mine them.

IPOP has been seeking the Individual Permit to mine its claims for over 4 years, while the US Army Corps of Engineers continues to withhold the permit, disabling IPOP from mining.

As leases are considered real property, the onus is upon the Corps to disprove this entitlement; which they have failed to provide. Conversely, IPOP has presented scientific evidence and proof that there is abundant gold present on its claims. IPOP has presented tangible evidence that there is little or no eelgrass present on the claims. IPOP has presented irrefutable evidence that the operation of the processing equipment will not produce water turbidity outside of the turbidity curtains. Each and every erroneous objection to the project have been respectfully considered and authenticated to be invalid.

On June 4, 2020 President Trump ordered *all* federal agencies to expedite projects that can help the nation during this global pandemic, and specifically named mining as one of those industries. As one of those branches of the federal government, the Corps should certainly be aware that any further stall tactics or attempted sabotage of this project is insubordination of a clear directive of a superior.

Nome residents, IPOP and the limited partners of IPOP are very aware of the local opposition to the proposed project. Those who oppose this IPOP project do not understand IPOP's commitment to the environment and to the economies of Nome and Alaska. IPOP is shovel ready and have made very clear to all agencies including the Corps that operations can begin within a few days of receipt of permits. IPOP can and will prove to not only Nome, but to the country and to the state of Alaska that it will be a great asset to the nation, residents of Nome and the entire State of Alaska for many years to come.

IPOP has repeatedly proven to the Army Corps of Engineers, and all other involved agencies, that dredging is safe and effective, inflicting no harm to the environment,

particularly when done in conjunction with two turbidity curtains. IPOPOP has been excruciatingly examined by this permitting process and to date has provided *everything* required of them by both state and federal agencies. IPOPOP has completed all studies and tests needed to prove the project will not only be profitable but also achieve a new standard for environmental standards in dredging and is ready to produce dredging results which will be of great benefit to Alaska.

As you are well aware, Alaska, as a royalty partner, will receive a 3% royalty of all gold produced by IPOPOP. In addition, IPOPOP will pay the State of Alaska a mining tax, property taxes and sales taxes to the state and local governments. All of the partners will pay significant federal income taxes on the gold production. These benefits are crucial today, given the current economic crisis our country faces. IPOPOP limited partners reside in a number of states throughout the country, which means each of those individual states benefit as well.

It is imperative for Alaska to develop its resources to create jobs and to produce wealth and support the local, state, and federal governments. It is simply not feasible for everyone to receive government assistance, and unlikely the federal government will send additional funds to Alaska, especially while the state is disallowing a tremendous source of income that IPOPOP will provide.

IPOPOP will camp and mine exclusively on Alaska state lands and waters. No tribal lands will be trespassed upon nor affected by IPOPOP operations. The encampment is a temporary structure situated upon flat vacant land, consisting of dirt and typically overgrown with weeds. One of the inane objections was that IPOPOP would not leave the land in its original condition after the camp is dismantled. Well, that is in fact perhaps the only true statement they have made. IPOPOP will clear the weeds and debris, smooth and level the land and set up the structures. At the end of each season the structures will be dismantled, the surface will be left clean, smooth and free of weeds and debris. If IPOPOP opposers have to resort to that ridiculous objection, the level to which they will stoop should be obvious to the Corps.

I ask you to see through the agenda of the opposers. I ask you to recognize how the Corps is bringing harm to Alaska and American citizens by withholding this permit. I ask you to support Alaska and this project by lending assistance in authorizing all needed permits for IPOPOP to begin mining immediately.

Very truly yours,  
W. B. Dunn, IPOPOP LLC Backer

cc:

- IPOPOP, LLC
- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law
- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP
- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

As an IPOP backer I want to express my support of the IPOP, LLC permit to mine for gold in the Bonanza Channel and ask you to do the same. My reasons are contained herein.

I appreciate and support the oversight and the high standards that the Army Corp of Engineers provides in protecting our environment. And although there was some non-adherence to Corps guidelines and timelines with IPOP's former USACE project manager, I welcome, a thorough fact-finding mission to back up approval and issuance of any mining permit.

The actual facts and data have been reviewed regarding the efficacy of mining for gold in the Bonanza Channel with no lasting effects on the environment. IPOP has submitted enough evidence in the submitted reports and studies requested to satisfy the environmental concerns raised by both the public, and officials at the Corps and State Agencies.

As far as economic viability, prospecting for gold is by definition something one hopes is likely to happen. But because IPOP's founders based our claim locations on years of research of past mining operation locations, the study of geologic movement, and predictions of iconic geologist Alfred Brooks, present during the Nome gold rush, the IPOP limited partnership was formed with the confidence of the "prudent man rule". And now that has been proven with core samples containing what could indicate one of the largest finds on the Seward Peninsula. This carries with it a direct monetary benefit to Alaska and its citizens.

IPOP has absolutely proven its case as an environmentally sound, highly profitable mining operation with proceeds that will continue to benefit Alaska for decades to come, and in the manner Governor Dunleavy is championing: "The reason why we want you to invest in Alaska is because we believe we protect our environment better than any other place on the planet."

I could write several pages with reasons why IPOP should be issued the permit; however, I hope what I have written today is sufficient for your support and help I am requesting.

Sincerely,

W Eckis, IPOP LLC Backer

cc:

- IPOP, LLC
- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law
- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP
- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**Governor Mike Dunleavy**  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 110001  
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

**Commissioner Jason Brune, ADEC**  
Department of Environmental  
Conservation  
410 Willoughby Avenue, Suite 303  
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**Senator Lisa Murkowski**  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**Attorney General Treg R. Taylor**  
1031 West 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 200  
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**Commissioner Corri A. Feige**  
Department of Natural Resources  
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**Senator Dan Sullivan**  
302 Hart Senate Office Building  
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**Kip Knudsen**  
State and Federal Relations  
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**Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang**  
Department of Fish and Game  
1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I write to you with a plea for help in securing a placer gold mining permit IPOP, LLC has been seeking for over 4 years, to no avail. I am a limited partner affiliate with the IPOP/Rivers of Gold (IPOP herewith) suction dredge mining operation in the Bonanza Channel near Nome. I have exercised my right to participate in the public comment postings; although I am well aware that the public comment periods are in direct violation of a presidential executive order in effect since June, 2020. I am also aware that the economic circumstance of the State of Alaska has been significantly and negatively impacted by the effects of COVID-19. It is yet one more of the many reasons I am decidedly perplexed by the extreme challenge IPOP has encountered from the USACE in the numerous efforts to secure the Individual Permit to begin dredging on lawfully procured claims.

After exhaustive, arduous research into the mining company, I watched as Governor Michael Dunleavy said "Alaska is open for business, come up and mine." That was the decision maker for me; yet here we are, four years later without permits to do the very thing Governor Dunleavy asked us to do for Alaska. The Alaska State Constitution specifically states that any United States citizen aged 18 years or older has the right to all state resources. There is absolutely no legal or logical reason that IPOP has not been granted a permit.

Alaska is in critical need of the millions of dollars that will be accoutered to the state from the mining operations of IPOP. IPOP has not only proven vast amounts of gold on their claims through the coring samples but also the hundreds of hours invested into research of historical data and the all-inclusive mapping of the complete leased land through the State of Alaska. IPOP has already spent over \$12 million on the Alaska economy and will continue to do so, in the addition to the monies designated to the state. Alaska needs IPOP both for helping provide jobs and pay taxes and royalty. The State of Alaska is our royalty partner. Alaska will for a great number of years be the beneficiary of a 3% royalty of all gold produced and substantial mining tax income. IPOP creates jobs and supports public assistance in many forms correspondingly. The federal government will receive income taxes from IPOP and its partners. Mining operations of IPOP will prove to be fortuitous for Alaska in the economic recovery from COVID-19. It is absolutely imperative that IPOP begin mining operations this season. Any argumentation or mandate that IPOP requires further scrutiny and/or action is nothing more than discrimination in my opinion. Numerous partners, my husband and myself will visit Nome, stay in hotels, eat in restaurants, go on nature tours, and spend our money in Alaska with each visit.

Your time is appreciated in reviewing my plea for help. IPOP has been guided by the State agencies and the Corps to proceed mining in a manner that can be beneficial to both the environment and the nation. Miners jobs are high paying jobs and the economic benefit to local economies are important. IPOP is on state land and waters and Alaska needs the economic benefits derived from their resource wealth.

W. L. Watt, IPOP LLC Backer

cc:

- *IPOP, LLC*
- *J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law*
- *James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP*
- *Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune,

Please consider this letter as a cry for help. I am a limited partner in this IPOP dredge mining project, I support this project and the issuance of all permits to commence operations forthwith.

The economy of Nome, the economy of Alaska, and the United States will greatly benefit from IPOP's mining project on the Seward Peninsula. IPOP has proven significant gold presence on their claims in the Bonanza Channel have the right to mine them.

The COVID-19 crisis has negatively the entire country. Citizens need jobs. Federal, state, and local governments need taxes. IPOP is able to assist in filling these needs. I believe the USACE is obligated to expedite the immediate issuance of all required permits to IPOP to accomplish the above.

I have reviewed the scientific data provided to me by IPOP and consider the operation to be environmentally friendly, causing no enduring disruption or injury to the environment or wildlife. There is no adverse affect to any person, property or business, only benefit.

The US Army Corps of Engineers has been disbarring IPOP from mining its claims for over 4 years, coming up with ridiculous requirements (including proof of gold). This has cost IPOP millions, and has unfortunately cost Alaska millions in loss of revenue as well.

Please help IPOP in securing a permit, then watch the ensuing positive change in Alaska.

Very truly yours,

X. Lutes, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOP, LLC
- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law
- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP
- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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**Congressman Don Young**  
**2314 Rayburn House Office Building**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

Dear Commissioner Brune:

I am a backer in the IPOP dredge mining project and am writing to you to request your help in obtaining the approval of and immediate issuance of all permits to commence operations in June, 2021

I have reviewed a tremendous amount of scientific data provided to me by IPOP. I have seen outrageous Facebook posts, untrue statements, ridiculous allegations, media interviews, fake photos and letter templates with urgent requests to fill in the blanks and submit as public comment to oppose IPOP provided by Kawarek Inc., Solomon Village and Leslie Tose, USACE project manager for IPOP.

The operation has proven to be environmentally friendly, subsistence is nonexistent near or on IPOP claims, eelgrass is a defunct issue, turbidity is nonexistent and gold is present on the claims – and lots of it, which as you know, will be of great benefit to Alaska.

This project clearly has the ability to jump-start the recovery of Nome economy, Alaska economy, and United States economy, which is desperately needed at this time.

IPOP has science, opposition has nothing. IPOP has evidence of their assertions, opposition has evidence of a temper tantrum. I think it's about time to issue the permit, don't you?

Sincerely,

A Agozzino Contriono, IPOP LLC Backer

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Dear Commissioner Brune

I am one of approximately 150 limited partners in IPOPOP, LLC, and I would like to share my thoughts for the approval of the IPOPOP permit for the mining of gold in the Bonanza Channel and ask for your assistance in our permit approval and issuance.

I believe in IPOPOP's commitment to the welfare of the environment and the surrounding community of Nome. Of course, beliefs and personal opinions are not enough. So, I urge you to examine IPOPOP's actions and the facts presented.

IPOPOP's intention has always been to act as a good, considerate neighbor. IPOPOP has contributed approximately \$3 million to Alaska businesses and charities. IPOPOP is a valued and respected member of the Nome Chamber of Commerce. It's been said IPOPOP has not responded to requests for meetings with Native Tribes. This is simply not true. What IPOPOP has not engaged in is arguing and name-calling even though more than once IPOPOP has been falsely accused of such behavior, absent any verifiable substantiation. All IPOPOP has wanted is the opportunity to rely on facts and science and not be stereotyped—without evidence, I might add—as the “evil out-of-state” miners.

IPOPOP is not a poorly outfitted seat-of-your-pants operation. The IPOPOP crew and management consists of shallow-water dredging experts and respected gold-mining pros. IPOPOP equipment is state-of-the-art and like nothing the Seward Peninsula has ever seen. IPOPOP has conducted extensive studies and employed mitigation techniques to prove our intentions and capabilities.

Again, I understand the sentiments of the locals based upon what has come before IPOPOP, but it is up to rational and science-based minds to decide. I am hoping that you may help us receive our permits to commence mining in June, 2021 and recognize the rational, science-based evidence provided by IPOPOP, see the baseless accusations and arbitrary delays for what they are.

Thank you for taking the time to read my plea for help and hopefully basing your next actions on science.

Sincerely,  
A Bollatta, Limited Partner IPOPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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**Congressman Don Young**  
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Washington, DC 20515

Commissioner Brune:

This letter is a petition for help. I am a limited partner in the IPOP dredge mining operation in the Bonanza Channel near Nome where our claims are situated. For over four years, we have performed and complied with everything the US ACE has required of us, to simply dredge our claims. For every requirement they throw at us, upon completion and submission, they require more. This is a seemingly endless cycle that must end in order for IPOP to mine its duly acquired claims.

I am not a scientist, geologist, chemist or even a gold expert. I am, however, an educated, intelligent person who supports the IPOP mining project. My support of this project is not simply based upon my limited partnership, it is based upon what I know of the company, the principals and the limited partners. It is based upon my research and review of the data and science submitted to the ACE by IPOP. It is based upon right and wrong, justice and injustice. I do not support desecration of the environment for monetary gain. I do not support the violation of constitutional, civil or human rights. I do not believe in bias, unethical, unfair treatment, and I do not support groups that set out to destroy businesses, lives or livelihoods. I support right, not wrong, justice, not injustice.

I have given careful deliberation to the specifics of this project and have been afforded the opportunity to review the scientific studies conducted by IPOP. I am fully confident in the results of the studies, and cannot conceive of any reason whatsoever the Army Corps could possibly conjure up to further delay this requested permit; however, they continue to do just that.

I have reviewed all of the opposing concerns, which are clearly not concerns at all. They are nothing more than a power play, and I am well aware they have all been refuted or mitigated. Although this process has taken an interminable period of time in my opinion, at long last it has finally reached a point where science and facts must be considered above all else.

I am of the belief that this will be an historic gold discovery that will benefit Alaska by providing an urgently needed windfall. I believe the science has proven that IPOP's modern method of placer mining will shield the environment from any damage in the future by establishing a new and improved standard of operations.

IPOP's scientific findings eliminate an opinionated debate or hearsay situation. IPOP has provided science in addition to governmental and historical data, not unprovable claims or hysteria. IPOP has provided drone footage, not fake pictures displaying a 25lb halibut allegedly caught on an IPOP claim in less than 24" of water, or a nest with eggs that could have been taken anywhere, including someone's back yard.



I appreciate the arduous task for the ACE, but they have been stringing IPOP along for over four years and it must stop. Upon review of IPOP's science and all supporting data and documentation, ultimately, scientific evidence and data must be used as a basis for evaluation. Unfortunately, rather than issue a permit, the ACE continues to pander to IPOP's opposition, which is not only detrimental to IPOP, but Alaska as well.

I hope you can help.

A Carter, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Dear Commissioner Brune,

As an IPOP limited partner and U.S. citizen, I am very much in favor of a permit for IPOP. Considering all IPOP has done for Alaska, not only in complying with all the testing and following of all the protocols, IPOP has spent over \$3 million on the state, donated to number of noteworthy charities (including your fight against the ridiculous recall attempt) and deserves to be in the water mining gold and helping to better Alaska in the following ways:

- 1 - IPOP is sitting on such a vast amount of gold, that sharing its revenue with Alaska creates the potential to impact the state and people in a truly positive and life changing way.
- 2 - A percentage of all mining returns will be given back to Alaska to help stimulate and grow its economy, which in turn will also help the people of Alaska.
- 3 - Great care has been taken by IPOP to leave as little of an environmental footprint as possible with two oversized turbidity curtains keeping all the dredging sediment contained as well as not damaging or harming any protected wildlife or plant life.
- 4 – IPOP’s dredges, with their special centrifuges will extract environmental toxins (if any) while extracting the gold.

IPOP has proven itself time and time again, to be a responsible, a reputable company that has been, and will continue to be, not only generous but friendly to the environment. Please help facilitate the issuance of permits to IPOP so mining can commence June 1, 2021 and start changing the economy and the lives of the Alaskan people for the better.

Thank you,  
A Corona, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:  
- IPOP, LLC  
- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law  
- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP  
- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Dear Commissioner Brune

I am a backer in the IPOP dredge mining project and am writing to you to request your help in obtaining the approval of and immediate issuance of all permits to commence operations in June, 2021

I have reviewed a tremendous amount of scientific data provided to me by IPOP. I have seen outrageous Facebook posts, untrue statements, ridiculous allegations, media interviews, fake photos and letter templates with urgent requests to fill in the blanks and submit as public comment to oppose IPOP provided by Kawarek Inc., Solomon Village and Leslie Tose, USACE. The operation has proven to be environmentally friendly, subsistence is nonexistent near or on IPOP claims, eelgrass is a defunct issue, turbidity is nonexistent and gold is present on the claims – and lots of it.

This project clearly has the ability to jump-start the recovery of Nome economy, Alaska economy, and United States economy, which is desperately needed at this time.

IPOP has science, opposition has nothing. IPOP has evidence of their assertions, opposition has evidence of a temper tantrum. I think it's about time to issue the permit, don't you?

Sincerely,

A Contriono, IPOP LLC Backer

cc:

- IPOP, LLC
- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law
- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP
- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

As a limited partner of IPOPOP, I am excited and proud to support IPOPOP's gold dredge mining project in the Bonanza Channel. I also support and endorse the approval of the Individual Permit which will allow IPOPOP to mine its claims, purchased for that very purpose. IPOPOP began pursuing a permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers for this project over 4 years ago, and still is.

After IPOPOP's first project manager was ousted from the project by USACE on September 4, 2020, I was hopeful that having a senior project manager without an evil agenda overseeing this project would be a more professional experience, resulting in the issuance of the permits to commence operations at once upon expiration of the revised Public Notice. I was hopeful, but not naïve enough to actually set an expectation for it. Good thing I didn't set the expectation because here we are nearly a year later...still waiting for yet another Public Comment permit to run out the clock and expire 3 days before our season should open on June 1, 2021, when we should be mining.

I support this project largely because it may bring some relief not only to Alaska, but every state in our nation. It appears that Alaska is drowning with no lifeboat coming. I can't say I'm surprised about the few objections to this project, these types of projects are bound to have mixed feelings about them. It's unfortunate that those opposed to the IPOPOP project are misinformed about the location of the project, the benefits it will bring and the absence of environmental impact it will have. That is attributable to not only IPOPOP's former project manager, but also to a few Native Tribes whose goal is to stop IPOPOP no matter what it takes – including but certainly not limited to lies, deceit, tantrums, threats, frivolous law suits – whatever it takes. A couple of tribes have been very vocal about their intention to bankrupt IPOPOP with delays, using their "insider at the Corps". Unfortunately for them, when that "insider" was booted from the IPOPOP project, I imagine they had to make some alterations to their plans.

When IPOPOP's scientific data was provided to the Army Corps of Engineers by IPOPOP, there should have been no question that the project is worthy of a permit. Yet IPOPOP still doesn't have a permit. As with any dispute, the side presenting supporting documentation and scientific data to validate their argument will likely be the victor unless the opposing side can provide contrary scientific data. This is not the case with IPOPOP opposition. They have provided no evidence, scientific or otherwise;

unless you want to count feigned photographs that have been produced for cash value prizes. All they have are emotional outbursts, false allegations, media interviews, petitions, surveys and a couple of Facebook sites. No science, no data, no facts. For the life of me, I cannot fathom why the USACE is allowing this.

Alaska is considered an “economic disaster”. IPOP has spent 4 years providing everything the USACE has required of us and then some. IPOP and its 150+ limited partners have asked the USACE to grant the permit to IPOP without further delay, to no avail. Now I am asking you if there is anything you can do to help us. Any support and/or assistance is very much appreciated.

Very truly yours,

A Gutierrez, IPOP Stakeholder

cc:

- *IPOP, LLC*

- *J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law*

- *James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP*

- *Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
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Dear Commissioner Brune

As an IPOP limited partner, I ask for your support for the IPOP dredge mining permit on our claims in the Bonanza Channel.

I recognize the due diligence and review of any permit application. Environment, historical use, rights to mine and potential monetary gain for the State must be taken into account. IPOP has always been more than willing to participate in this process; however, was continually diverted from expediency for what we perceive as arbitrarily imposed delays for past 4 years.

IPOP has demonstrated the necessary technical prowess, while providing the necessary studies and mitigation plans to alleviate any environmental concerns presented both in the multiple public commentary periods and those of the Agencies charged with the Stewardship of the area.

Naturally, we are partners invested in what we are quite convinced will be a lucrative venture. We want to make very clear that we personally take great pride in the fact that part of our success will be shared with the people of Alaska, and directly help at least one of our 50 states to bounce back more quickly from the effects of the unprecedented pandemic that shut down the economy.

IPOP has submitted a 275 page application In addition to the requested studies. We are ready to immediately commence mining; furthermore, our equipment and crew is literally standing by.

We believe that the scientific evidence IPOP has provided satisfies all requirements and ask that the agencies will subsequently issue the 2021 mining permit.

Sincerely,  
A. E. Burke Lewis, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOP, LLC
- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law
- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP
- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am an IPOP limited partner and of course in favor of the permit issuance. Unfortunately, we have been met with unnecessary demands, arbitrary delays, biased and unfair treatment, repeated test requirements and even mandated core samples for proof of gold by the USACE, yet they have continued to withhold our permit for over 4 years. I appeal to for help in procuring a permit to mine our claims commencing on June 1, 2021.

In 2017 IPOP was approached by a gold miner, Colby Engstrom, who proposed to sell his mining claims located at the mouth of the Solomon River, which is located between IPOP's east side claims and west side claims, for an outrageous sum of \$635,000. IPOP declined Colby's absurd proposal for the 32 net acres at the base of the Solomon river. This offer was conducted through Mr. Engstrom's attorney, Perkins Coie, LLC and IPOP's attorney, JP Tangen; therefore the facts contained herein are verifiable, as this was conducted in writing.

After IPOP declined Mr. Engstrom's offer, miners and business owners came crawling out of the woodwork to see if we would buy their claims. By May of 2018, IPOP had been approached by numerous locals offering deals ranging from the \$635,000 offer from Colby Engstrom, to \$6,000,000 utilizing Perkins Coie, LLC who spoke with IPOP's attorney JP Tangen in writing as well.

It began with the \$635,000 proposal from Colby Engstrom. Next, the Martinsons offered David Sao Marcos, IPOP principal, the Dredge 7 Hotel and Solomon River mining claims for \$3,000,000, followed by Mullikin Surveys' claims on the Solomon River, asking over \$800,000, followed by millions more, and finally with Andrew Lee of the Tagiuk Gold dredge asking David Sao Marcos for \$6,000,000 for his claims. This begs the question, if these people are so dead-set against IPOP's suction dredge mining operation, why were they so anxious to sell their own claims for IPOP to conduct the very activity they are now opposing, in and around the same area?

After the transaction with Colby Engstrom failed, IPOP was later informed that Mr. Engstrom was involved with an employee of Kawarek, Inc., and possibly related to, or had a close personal relationship with Liz Johnson of the Solomon Corporation, whose name is Chandre. On September 28, 2020, at the USACE public meeting for locals to state their comments, Chandre's name kept popping up, which jostled the memories of myself and other IPOP attendees. IPOP finds the outcry from the Solomon Corporation, led by the Johnson family, and Kawarek, Inc., very suspicious. IPOP believes it to be based on anger and resentment simply because IPOP declined Colby Engstrom's preposterous offer. This feigned outrage from all of these people who attempted to soak IPOP is nothing more than greed based resentment, and an attempt seek revenge on IPOP.

IPOP has been informed that dredge miners, including Native Tribe member dredge miners, were planning to bankrupt IPOP with the assistance or cooperation of a USACE employee, then pick up IPOP's equipment after IPOP was "run out of town". Nome does have a history of failed gold miners abandoning their equipment, which then becomes the newly "acquired" property of the locals. Subsequently, the intent was to jump IPOP claims, mine IPOP's gold, using IPOP's equipment. At the time, they had Leslie Tose, IPOP's USACE project manager, fighting against IPOP, in favor of the tribes, assuring them the permits to carry this out. When Ms. Tose was removed from the IPOP project in September 2020, it put a serious crimp in their plan, thereby escalating their anger.

Perhaps the USACE and all other agencies may want to consider the motive for Solomon and Kawarek, as it certainly isn't outrage about a suction dredge operation mining in a long time unused area.

Also addressed in the aforementioned public meeting was once again the question of the presence of gold on IPOP claims. The person, whom I believe may have been Chandre, questioning the presence of gold, asked the USACE to demand additional core samples. Given the history as explained in this letter, the reasons for that are transparent. They know full well there is gold there, as word spread all over town in Nome that IPOP has made a massive gold discovery, after it was published in the AMA magazine. This person was informed that this not something the USACE requires. This was, however, required of IPOP by Leslie Tose, who subsequently informed the tribes of the results.

IPOP requests this letter in the record for the USACE to perhaps understand why a few well known tribal members expend so much energy and vitriol toward IPOP, when tribal members have been dredgers for years. If tribal members can dredge, why can't IPOP?

Very truly yours,

A Vickery, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Daman Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



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1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

This is a request for help and support. I am a limited partner in the IPOPOP dredge mining project in the Bonanza Channel. IPOPOP has spent the last 4 years seeking a permit to mine its claims and has been thwarted at every turn by Army Corps of Engineers. The help and support I am seeking is in the procurement of the Individual Permit to mine.

I'm sure you are aware by now, that IPOPOP has been faced with opposition with regard to the project area interfering with Native Alaskan subsistence hunting, fishing, berry picking, birdwatching, etc.

I would like to address some of the false statements and counter them with proven true statements:

1. FALSE: The State of Alaska sold IPOPOP claims that are invalid.  
TRUE: IPOPOP and its partners do not believe the State sold invalid claims. If the Corps considers this valid, the state would be on the hook to IPOPOP for millions. Not only would the state be required to reimburse IPOPOP for the claims, they would have to reimburse IPOPOP for every dollar spent on the project thus far. This would include but not be limited to equipment, scientific studies, tests, wages, travel, legal fees, lobbyist fees, permit representative fees, and every expenditure incurred on this project from the date of acquisition of the claims.
2. FALSE: Not enough gold on the claims to mine.  
TRUE: As you know, this is not only *blatantly false*, it's irrelevant.
3. FALSE: IPOPOP will harm the environment.  
TRUE: IPOPOP will not harm the environment Unlike other operations, IPOPOP does not add chemicals to the water, it uses gravity to separate gold from sand and gravel, as gold is heavier.  
FALSE: IPOPOP will negatively impact the economy.  
TRUE: IPOPOP will boost the economy of Nome like it hasn't seen in over two centuries. Not only will a 3% royalty go directly to Alaska, IPOPOP will pay local, state and federal taxes. IPOPOP will purchase goods and services from local businesses, boosting local commerce. IPOPOP partners will visit the area and stay in hotels, eat at restaurants, etc.
4. FALSE: IPOPOP has never reached out to locals or native tribes.  
TRUE: IPOPOP has documented evidence to refute this. On at least 3 occasions IPOPOP has requested meetings with locals and native tribes, to avail. IPOPOP issued a request to USACE, asking the agency to host a public meeting to accurately present the operation in hopes of assuaging some fears and resolve some inaccurate perceptions. The response was ignored by the project manager.

IPOP did in fact meet with a native tribe leader, who abruptly left the meeting without explanation after 20 minutes.

5. FALSE: Endangered species habitats are on IPOP claims.
6. TRUE: The endangered species near IPOP claims are predominantly denizens of the Bering Sea, and habituate bear on or near ice bergs and lakes. In the last 5 years, the IPOP crew has never spotted any of the species listed, nor have they seen a single person subsistence hunting. Polar Bears are listed as one of the endangered species (by Leslie Tose in a media interview) and to my knowledge, polar bears don't tend to bask in the water during the summer.
7. FALSE: Locals and natives tribal members use IPOP claims for subsistence hunting and feeding their families.  
TRUE: On November 2, 2019, IPOP submitted available lists of Tier 1 and Tier 2 subsistence harvest permits which clearly demonstrate no recipients likely to utilize the Bonanza Channel.

Regarding number 5 above, at the time of submission mentioned above, IPOP requested that the Corps arrange a meeting of IPOP representatives and tribal and local opponents to participate in a civilized discussion about measures that may be taken to address their concerns, and asked the Corps to engage an unbiased, well informed independent facilitator to enable the parties to generate solutions to mitigate any viable, chronicled impacts. The Corps buried the request and IPOP believes that the request was never communicated to the tribal members. This presumption is based on numerous claims from tribal members and locals who are of the belief that IPOP doesn't care about their concerns.

I appreciate your consideration of these facts.

Truly,  
A. Zaman, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:  
- IPOP, LLC  
- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law  
- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP  
- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I'm a limited partner and supportive of the IPOP dredge mining project in the Bonanza Channel. We need the permit to mine our claims and are asking for your help. IPOP has been tirelessly seeking approval for and issuance of the Individual Permit to mine since 2017.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: There have been numerous ethics violations committed by IPOP's project manager, who was on a smear campaign in an attempt to obstruct this permit from the start. Rather than enumerate every offense, I urge you to read 6 interviews with Nome Nugget, 5 interviews with KNOM and the Facebook campaign "Stop IPOP" that she was involved in while she was still on the IPOP project, and still is. Somebody call the anti-IPOP survey phone number posted on the site, which turned out to be her direct line at the USACE, well *after* she was removed from the project in September 2020. She has had a close relationship with the Kawerack people, who have been listed in a number of her anti-IPOP campaign crusades. How can USACE allow a person with such prejudicial bias against IPOP, to be responsible for the issuance of their permit? This conduct is a very serious offense according to the USACE Standards of Ethical Conduct.

OBSTRUCTION: I have great concern regarding the numerous delays, stall tactics and statutory violations employed by USACE. IPOP has completed and submitted every test and study required of them. As you are aware, coring exploration and turbidity studies require a permit. Permits from USACE have been delayed, waiting for a signature from USACE. Although IPOP proved their operation created no turbidity, they were told they would need a turbidity curtain accompanied with a turbidity study. IPOP complied. Then they were told they would need a larger turbidity curtain and another turbidity study. IPOP complied. The results of the turbidity test using a 2500' curtain was regarded as very effective. USACE insisted there was a chance that some turbidity might still escape. IPOP offered to employ a second curtain to surround the 2500' curtain. The third turbidity test, now employing the second curtain has been completed, verifying that turbidity is still a non-issue, yet, still no permit. IPOP's vegetation study has verified that eelgrass is a non-issue, yet, still no permit. IPOP has verified there is in fact gold on its claims, yet, still no permit. IPOP submitted a comprehensive, complete 275 page permit application which was deemed complete by USACE, yet still no permit. IPOP has verified there is absolutely no effect on subsistence activity, yet, still no permit. There is literally no valid reason IPOP shouldn't be issued a permit by the USACE, yet still...no...permit.

I believe IPOP's former project manager is corrupt by its very definition. This has consequently caused loss of income to IPOP partners, Nome, Nome merchants, the State of Alaska, Nome families and children and the United States. I recognize that USACE removed her from this project; however, the damage has been done and that income is already lost. The permit must be issued immediately while gold prices are high, in an effort to afford at least some recovery. This is urgent, as season after season elapses and IPOP cannot mine its claims.

UNFOUNDED ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIONS: The scientific data provided by IPOP is in USACE possession, confirmed to have been reviewed. IPOP findings are in favor of the environment. Test after test, IPOP has been required to perform has proven their mining operation to be 100% environment friendly, using no chemicals – only gravity in their process. They will be in the water and their encampment is fully mobile and temporary. Some of the Native Tribes have been vocal in opposition to IPOP's mining project, citing environmental concern. I don't believe a word of their so-called environmental objections. Red Dog Mine, permitted by USACE on native lands, owned by NANA and Teck Resources (a Canadian company) brings in over \$800 million per year, not including the land use fees paid to NANA. Alaska receives nothing because it's on tribal land. NANA and Canada reap 100% of earnings of this highly toxic mine. Their further objections about destruction to the land are not to be believed either. They say a picture is worth a thousand words:

RED DOG MINE PERMITTED BY USACE. EPA IDENTIFIES RED DOG MINE AS THE HIGHEST SOURCE OF TOXIC RELEASE IN USA



BONANZA CHANNEL TODAY



WHAT BONANZA CHANNEL WILL LOOK LIKE AFTER IPOP

There was an executive order issued by the 45<sup>th</sup> President on June 4, 2020, directing USACE to bypass the public comment period and all of the tedious testing so mining can commence. The 2020 public comment period had been compromised by USACE, using media outlets and social media and has also proven there is no way to stop her; therefore, another extension should have been out of the question, yet USACE accommodated it.

IPOP has the right to mine, per Alaska State Constitution, IPOP has complied with every requirement for a permit, IPOP is likely the most benign mining operation in the history of Alaska, yet the most profitable.

It is overwhelming clear that IPOP has proven their case for a permit. USACE has not and cannot prove their case to deny the permit; they would have to disprove science.

Thank you for your attention to this project, it is my hope that you can support this project and lend some assistance to the issuance of a permit to mine.

Very truly yours,

B. E. Norton  
Limited Partner IPOP LLC

*cc:*

*- IPOP, LLC*

*- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law*

*- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP*

*- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

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1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 115526  
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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I back the IPOP gold mining project. I am writing to you to ask for your support and assistance in IPOP's endeavor to procure a permit to mine its claims in the Bonanza Channel just outside of Nome. Thank you in advance for any support or assistance you can offer.

IPOP has been attempting to procure a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers to dredge its claims for over 4 years. I find the manner in which this permitting process has been handled by the Corps both incompetent and unprofessional. IPOP has spent millions on the testing and scientific studies required by the Corps. I support and appreciate the testing and science; however, I do not support being required to repeat the same procedures multiple times. I don't support being discriminated against with requirements that are not required of other miners by the the Corps, such as coring to prove there is gold on our claims and prove the quantities of gold. I don't support or appreciate submitting requests for permits to perform these required studies and then being made to wait nearly 2 years for our ACE project manager to sign it, when she was the one requiring it in the first place. I especially do not condone reading about the results in local media outlets, complete with our photographs without IPOP's knowledge or permission. These articles were given by local tribes opposing the project, who could only have been given our results by the Corps.

I do not possess a degree in geology or science; however, I am an intelligent, educated person who knows how to research. I know that the gold discovery on our claims is quite significant – reported in an AMA article as “massive” – apparently word spreads quickly in Nome. These tribes reporting our gold discovery evidently don't think we know what we have, as they have altered their objection from “no gold there” to “not enough gold there”. The amount of gold is irrelevant in any case, the state sold us the leases on these claims for the purpose of mining them, as is our right per Alaska State Constitution. The only relevance regarding the amount of gold is what that will mean for Alaska. 3% of what we have found represents a much needed windfall for the state.

I support the IPOP mining project, but not simply because I have a stake in it. I do not support flamboyant manipulation of the environment for monetary gain, and I assure you that IPOP is not one of those mining companies. I have studied the specifics of this project and have reviewed the tests and scientific studies conducted by reputable, high level geologists and scientists contracted by IPOP and I am confident in the results of the studies. Given the results of each study, including the multiple repeated studies, I cannot conceive of a single reason the Army Corps could possibly conjure up to continue to deny the requested permit, yet they keep coming up with them. IPOP opposers have stooped low enough to question the integrity of these reputable scientists, and our ACE project manager supported this.

There have been numerous objections to this project by these same groups, all of which have been disproven with science. They tout them as opposing “concerns”, which clearly are not concerns at all, but simply a power play. This process has taken an interminable period of time, but the bottom line is that science and facts must be the determining factor above all else. Regardless of how many times IPOP is forced to repeat a study, the outcome will continue to be the same because its *science*, not conjecture.

I am of the belief that this will be an historic gold discovery that will benefit Alaska by providing an urgently needed windfall. Science has proven that IPOP’s innovative method of placer mining will shield the environment from any damage in the future by establishing a new and improved standard of operations.

IPOP’s scientific findings eliminate a “he said, she said” situation. IPOP has provided data, not hearsay. IPOP has provided science, not fake pictures displaying a 25lb halibut allegedly caught on an IPOP claim in about 18” of water. I should think that the Corps would prefer science and data to unfounded rhetoric as a basis for evaluation.

I could write a book on all the unfair practices and unethical behaviors IPOP has endured over the last 5 years from US Army Corps of Engineers, but I won’t. I’ll close with a simple truth: IPOP has science, opposers have baseless accusations that cannot be confirmed with science; therefore, IPOP has proven its case for a permit, and Army Corps of Engineers is duty bound to issue the permit. Please believe the science and support this project. Please care about Alaska and help IPOP help Alaska.

Sincerely,  
B Lopez IPOP LLC Backer

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune:

I stand firm on the belief that IPOPOP should be granted a permit upon commencement of this 2021 season beginning June 1, 2021. I appreciate your valuable time to allow me to offer my opinion to you regarding placer mining for gold in the Bonanza Channel. I favor issuance of the necessary permits, primarily because there is no reason *not* to issue and while there are numerous reasons *to* issue. I am one of many IPOPOP backers who share this opinion, unshaken in our belief that IPOPOP will a tremendous asset to Alaska and for Nome. I will explain the dominant benefits of this project and the IPOPOP mining company as I perceive them, in no particular order of priority.

**IPOPOP has withstood the test of time.** IPOPOP has endured false and groundless accusations that have been made, including but not limited to: absence of gold, not enough gold, annihilation to the environment, despoliation of eelgrass, turbidity, spawning salmon, disruption of the quiet and peaceful enjoyment rights of the salmon, decimation of endangered species, depredation to subsistence, upheaval to berry picking, obliteration of birdwatching, elimination of nature hikes, cruel and unusual punishment to fish, above water noise, underwater noise, native land encroachment, land destruction, interference with migratory and rare birds, disruption of family life, disruption of commerce, ruination of Nome economy, devastation to survival for people and communities, valuable habitat disturbance, and the evil ambitions of the California mining company who is coming to plunder Nome. IPOPOP has delivered incontrovertible evidence, successfully disproving every last one of these allegations.

IPOPOP has persevered through an underhanded USACE project manager who was undermining IPOPOP and the mining project from the start.

**IPOPOP proposes an operation to do the very thing Alaska is known for:** developing its resources to create jobs and produce wealth to support the local, state, and federal governments. Boost commerce, revitalize tourism, and perhaps even get the ferry back into service and reopen satellite campuses. It is not feasible for everyone to receive government assistance, and currently, government assistance no longer appears to be a viable option for long term survival; somebody must produce goods and services. IPOPOP stands ready to do its part to support these entities and the economy as a whole.

**The Corps and the protesters alike, are aware of the vast amount of gold in these inland waters,** which translates to an economic boost to Nome, to Alaska, to the US federal government, and to the backers and their families of IPOPOP. The totality of IPOPOP's limited partners are all US citizens; hence taxpayers. Royalties and taxes will be paid to Alaska, taxes will be paid to the federal treasury, state and local taxes will be paid to Nome in addition to commerce to local businesses. The benefits to Nome and to Alaska will doubtlessly be in the millions



of dollars per year, and benefits to the federal treasury will be even greater. Everyone will benefit from this project. Ironically, even the people who criticize and object to this project will reap benefits from it.

**These inland waters are the property of the State of Alaska**, IPOP has lawfully leased claims on these inland waters from the State of Alaska for the solitary purpose of mining, and retains the right to do so. This isn't a subjective, convoluted concept; it's a straightforward reality. This permit should have been issued a long time ago, and should be issued now, especially with the economy of Alaska teetering on the brink of bankruptcy.

It is a certainty that IPOP is deserving of a permit to begin mining, and a certainty that Alaska needs this project.

Thank you again for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

B Neichen, IPOP LLC Backer

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am a backer of IPOP, in favor of a permit to mine it's claims in the Bonanza Channel. IPOP has well over 150 limited partners who are certainly in favor of the permit to mine. We are also in favor of the economy, the environment, decency, honesty, ethics and fairness.

**Economy:** IPOP has proven without a doubt that it will do wonders for the economy of Alaska. I don't believe I need to go into much detail, as you have access to the file and much of the tests and scientific studies were included in the Public Notice in 2020.

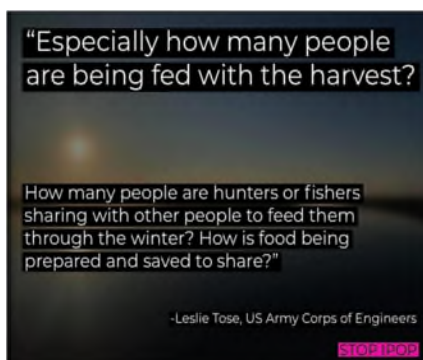
**Environment:** IPOP causes no injury to the environment whatsoever. Again, these tests and scientific studies were included in the Public Notice in 2020. Suffice it to say that IPOP has proven this fact beyond a shadow of a doubt.

**Decency:** IPOP has been treated with absolute indecency by its former project manager at the USACE, who has done everything within her power to destroy IPOP's reputation, mining project and right to mine. Imagine a USACE project manager involved in a campaign against the very project she is

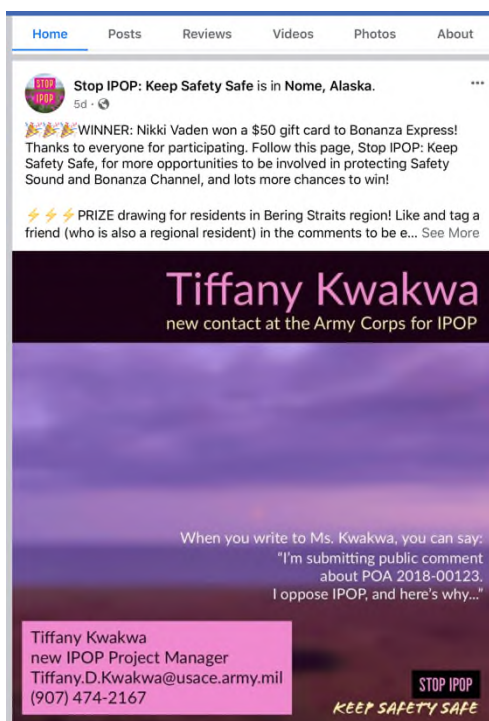


responsible for issuing a permit to, who has been for quite some time; including prior to her departure from the project. Here is just one example of many from the "Stop IPOP" site on Facebook:

**Honesty:** IPOP has not deceived any individual or entity in their request for permit or in their organization. Leslie Tose has misled, deceived, misguided, bamboozled, deluded and outright lied to support her narrative to cause dissent and hatred against IPOP to fit her agenda, which is to prevent IPOP from ever obtaining a permit to mine, and has done from outset. Here is another example of many, also from Stop IPOP on Facebook:



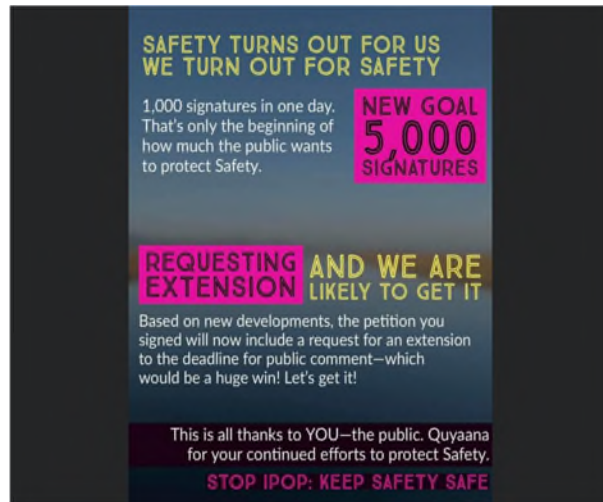
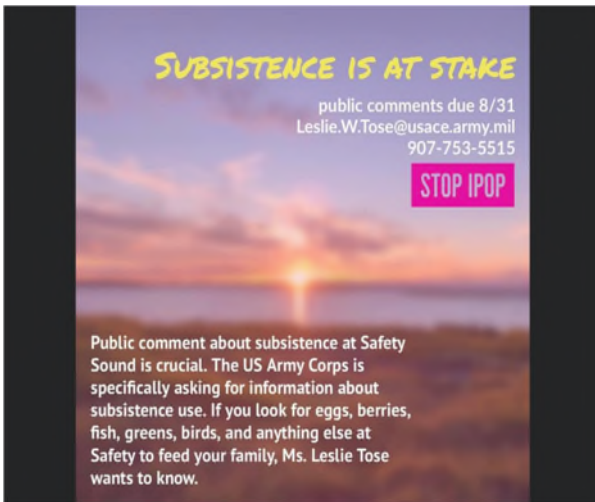
**Ethics:** USACE has been blatantly unethical with regard to the IPOP project. There is an alarming conflict of interest for any USACE employee, particularly the project manager of the project, who is an advocate for the opposition. Opposition includes some of the native tribes and other miners, who are angry because IPOP declined to purchase their claims in the Bonanza Channel when they were offered [to IPOP]. This project manager also has a close relationship with another mineral claim owner who is mining his claims in the Bonanza Channel. This miner attempted to sell his claims on 32 acres in the Bonanza Channel



positioned at the mouth of the Solomon River to IPOP for over \$600,000. IPOP is smarter than he expected, I suppose. In any case, he is now very vocal about his opposition to IPOP. While I am on the subject of ethics, I do not believe anything of value can be offered in exchange for public comment:

Unless Ms. Kwakwa was an active participant in this campaign, she should put an end to this blatant attempt to make it appear as though she is. The picture appears to be her own poster to replace the one from Ms. Tose. The poster alone can be explained. For Ms. Tose, it was far more than just the poster. I do notice the absence of so much as a single quote from Ms. Kwakwa, including fear mongering and telling people what to write in their opposition comments for that specific Public Comment segment of the permitting process, as there are for Ms. Tose. However, certainly anyone can see why this would be cause for concern with regard to IPOP and its partners.

**Fairness:** The USACE has demonstrated blatant disregard to fairness toward IPOP with misleading and untrue negative comments in media outlet interviews, of course there's the Facebook Stop IPOP campaign, etc., while permits are being issued to other miners. USACE has shown bias and prejudice, cost



the state of Alaska millions, cost IPOP and its partners millions, has attempted to sway opinion with lies. Here are two examples of many:

I wonder why they thought they were likely to get the extension they requested from our USACE project manager. It doesn't seem fair to IPOP, especially considering it is in violation of an Executive Order issued by President Trump on June 4, 2020 that is still in effect.

I very much appreciate your serious consideration of my request for assistance and my reasons why I believe we need it. It is my hope that USACE will make a much deserved decision to issue IPOP a full, nonrestrictive mining permit to commence mining this season in June; however, I don't have much expectation of it, I have been hoping for it for over 4 years.

Sincerely,  
B Young, IPOP LLC Backer

- cc:
- IPOP, LLC
  - J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law
  - James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP
  - Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I offer my plea for help in favor of the IPOP mining project permit approval and immediate issuance to commence dredge mining June, 2021.

IPOP permits have been unfairly delayed and obstructed for at least four years by USACE. I have had serious concerns about how this project has been handled by USACE thus far, as itemized below:

- The IPOP project has been impeded by USACE from the onset
- IPOP's First USACE project manager openly demonstrated serious conflicts of interest, which rests squarely upon the shoulders of USACE, and will be identified as ACE herein
- ACE is an advocate for the native tribes who oppose IPOP
- ACE has misrepresented factual findings, causing additional delays
- ACE has accomplished fear mongering among locals and native tribes with lies and deceit
- ACE, in conjunction with a few Native Tribes has an agenda to ensure IPOP is never issued a permit to mine its claims
- ACE has demanded studies be performed over and over again, when the original results didn't fit the desired agenda -which has cost IPOP additional millions of dollars
- ACE has suppressed IPOP's submissions until after deadlines have elapsed
- ACE has publicly and inaccurately blamed IPOP for every delay, using KNOM and The Nome Nugget
- ACE is involved in a "STOP IPOP" campaign on Facebook, conspiring with the Kawarek tribe who publicly opposes IPOP
- ACE has failed to communicate that IPOP creates no harmful or toxic turbidity into Safety Sound; instead proclaims that it does
- ACE fails to inform the public that IPOP *offered* to use the double turbidity curtains they will employ, to satisfy its so-called concerns
- ACE has suppressed IPOP coring permits until it's too late, due to weather conditions
- ACE has been repeatedly non-compliant with numerous response deadlines per USACE timeline requirements
- ACE requested a public comment period to accommodate the Kawarek tribe, violating an Executive Order from the President

- ACE subsequently requested an extension to the public comment period to accommodate the Kawarek tribe (verifiable on “STOP IPOPOP” Facebook site)
- ACE has created fear among a number of Nome residents, claiming IPOPOP will deplete subsistence, thereby starving them and their families. *I must add, this behavior is truly beyond reproach, even for her*
- ACE exploited this public comment process by imparting [Leslie Tose] own untruthful comments as yet another endeavor to hinder IPOPOP
- ACE has demonstrated an unadulterated abuse of power, taking full advantage of her commission at USACE
- ACE has never publicly apprised the community of the many benefits of the IPOPOP project, which is gross negligence by definition
- ACE willfully perjured itself by declaring there is no gold on IPOPOP claims. ACE is in possession of contradictory evidence
- ACE provided documents and photographs from the USACE’s IPOPOP file to the Kawarek Corporation, prior to public release and without IPOPOP permission
- ACE misrepresents IPOPOP’s operation using social media, KNOM and Nome Nugget to further its cause
- ACE has made its personal negative opinions known to outside sources with lies and animosity
- ACE publicly provided negative verbiage for opposers to use for the 2020 public comment segment of the IPOPOP permitting process
- ACE has campaigned to amass opposition to IPOPOP and has been doing so for at least four years. This is unethical and unprincipled conduct
- ACE is responsible for its employee’s unscrupulous exploits.
- ACE has cost IPOPOP and its partners hundreds of millions of dollars with persistent delays of permits and demanding further, and often repeated costly studies and testing
- ACE has cost Alaska hundreds of millions of dollars with its persistent denial of permits
- ACE has a very close relationship with another mineral claim owner, mining his claims positioned at the mouth of the Solomon River

USACE has an untrustworthy employee who should be denied all access to IPOPOP’s project. It appears that being removed from the IPOPOP project had little effect on this employee. An article was posted by the Nome Nugget on September 4, 2020 at 3:50PM states that Ms. Tose emailed the Nome Nugget [that day] to inform them of the USACE project manager change, while assuring them that this change “shouldn’t make a difference” [in how this project has been handled] by USACE because the “permit process is consistent.” I was of the hope it was an incorrect proclamation, given all the damage that had already been done; however, here we are a year later with no permit and out thousands more on additional USACE requirements. In another interview ACE stated it gives “everyone a fair shake.” From where IPOPOP is sitting, that couldn’t be further from the truth, considering some other mines in full operation, causing harm to land, environment and people. IPOPOP does none of those things.

Every assertion I have made in this letter can be verified as fact; conversely, the negative assertions from ACE can be verified as false. I am of the opinion that it is disreputable that the employee failed to cite a conflict of interest when assigned this project; but instead, seized the opportunity to work against IPOPOP inside the USACE.

I believe the USACE is chargeable to issue IPOP the regulatory permits needed for this project to proceed expeditiously, and again, request your assistance.

I very much anticipate any help you can give us on this matter.

Sincerely,

C. Campos IPOP LLC Backer

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

The purpose of this letter is to ask for help in the procurement of a permit for the IPOPOP gold dredge mining project in the Bonanza Channel. The USACE has been holding up this permit for over 4 years.

About 3 years ago my husband and I became limited partners in IPOPOP, LLC because we were very much in favor of this project and still are. I performed extensive research on the project, the company, Alaska and even gold locations. I discovered an article by Albert Brooks, who predicted that the precise location of our claims would one day present gold in unheard of quantities once someone figured out how to go deep enough to get it...which IPOPOP had indeed done.

At the time that we became involved with the project, IPOPOP's project manager at the US Army Corps of Engineers told IPOPOP it just needed a couple more things to get the permit. One of those things was a core sample from one of our claims because she could not issue a permit without knowing there was gold to be mined. IPOPOP was well aware that this was outside of the guidelines, and IPOPOP's legal team knew it; however, in the interest of compliance and obtaining the permit, IPOPOP agreed to comply with the demand. IPOPOP really had no choice, as the permit was effectively being held for ransom. After IPOPOP agreed to this highly unusual demand, the project manager informed them they would need a permit. The following day, IPOPOP submitted a Request for Permit to core. The project manager sat on the request for several months until the weather made it an impossibility until the following year. The following year, IPOPOP began asking the project manager about it, then suddenly she "needed" a battery of additional tests and studies – all the while, still dangling the permit as bait. So IPOPOP took the bait, (fully cognizant of what she was doing) and performed the studies. For every requirement IPOPOP met, she had two more. Every time we turned around there was a new "concern". Just short of two years after IPOPOP submitted the request for a permit to core, it was finally signed, and we commenced coring. Meanwhile, our project manager was accommodating local media with numerous interviews about this project and it was becoming very clear that this project manager was working against IPOPOP and seemingly had no intention of ever issuing a permit.

As you may or may not have heard, the gold discovered from the coring samples is just as Albert Brooks predicted over 100 years ago. This was great news for not only IPOPOP and its limited partners but for Alaska as well, seeing how Alaska gets 3% in royalties. This was not, however, good news for our project manager or the native tribes and a few miners she was working against IPOPOP with. When the AMA got wind of it they published an article about IPOPOP's "massive gold discovery". I assure you they did not hear this from IPOPOP or anyone connected to IPOPOP, as we didn't want that word getting out, for the safety of our crew and our claims. The native tribes were immediately told about it and sent a copy of the report from the USACE.

The interviews with IPOPOP's previous USACE project manager were disturbing to me. She was obviously against this project and was noticeably silent about IPOPOP's evidence that was great news for so many who would benefit from it with royalties paid to their home state budget, public programs, education, mineral and oil dividends and increases to commerce in Nome. She certainly didn't hesitate to inform the native tribes. I believe there is a reason for this, as IPOPOP's science has come up against the brick wall of groundless opposition on numerous occasions.



The “Stop IPOP: Keep Safety Safe” campaign was a prime example of baseless objections. What exactly are they trying to “save” it from? Are they really convinced that the Safety Sound is unsafe because IPOP will mine 20 acres of 15,000 per season? Is it reasonable for the USACE to give any credence to such a preposterous claim? This statement along with the statement that they get all of their subsistence from that specific area, renders the other 99.9% of the Safety Sound useless and vacant of all wildlife for subsistence hunting. That translates to 100% of wildlife to hunt are specifically on the 20 acres IPOP will dredge. The USACE should be embarrassed to lend one iota of credibility to that. And this is one of the things holding up the IPOP permit. Do they think the Safety Sound needs saving from using it for mining mineral resources? It doesn’t need saving from that, mining those resources is exactly what will save the state and Nome. Of course the tribes don’t care about that because it has absolutely no impact on them – good or bad. Why isn’t the USACE considering that? IPOP is not imperiling the Safety Sound and they know it. This crusade of theirs has only one goal: to stop IPOP no matter what it takes – and the USACE is allowing it. There is no purpose or need, just a *want* with no defined, legitimate or rational reason.

In addition to IPOP’s claims being rife with gold, IPOP’s process is 100% environmentally safe. I can state definitively that they would *never* become involved in an operation that would bring harm to the environment, the land and water, and especially not wildlife. To be honest, I have never seen or heard of a mining company so caring about the environment as much as IPOP does. While I am not a tree-hugging activist, I most definitely do care about our environment and I worry about the planet my children will be left with if we don’t act responsibly. IPOP is attending to that very need. And let’s not kid ourselves, they couldn’t possibly care less about the environment, the natives tribes have some of the most toxic mines in the country, and they’re making millions mining them.

I was surprised about the public comment period because I watched the Rose Garden speech in June last year when the President issued the executive order, eliminating that type of thing and I’m certain the Army Corps of Engineers is not exempt from it.

IPOP is offering help and hope, and is not synonymous with annihilation. I passionately believe that the Corps should have already conceded that IPOP has proven their case for a permit, they have a legal right to mine per Alaska State Constitution and will ultimately be issued a permit to mine their claims. The Corps has known this for at least 4 years, yet IPOP’s permit is still being held. The project manager was removed from the IPOP project September 4, 2020, which gave us some hope, but that hope is dissipating with each season that goes by with no permit. Waning hope or not, IPOP will never give up.

C Cason, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Commissioner Brune

This is a cry for help. I am one of approximately 150 limited partners in the IPOP dredge mining operation in the Bonanza Channel. I am not just requesting help for IPOP, but for Alaska as well.

For the last four years, IPOP has been delayed by ACE far exceeding the regulatory deadlines for responses to requests to conduct work on the IPOP mining claims. This is a factual allegation, and should be internally investigated, even for financial interests, so it does not come as a surprise down the road.

Today, the country finds itself at a point where the nation is struggling and Alaska is broke. Unfortunately, Alaska's budget revenues haven't fallen far short of the forecasts. President Trump was working diligently to bring this country back, while the USACE still seems to be working diligently to prevent recovery to Alaska, while our entire country is in trouble, and likely without funds to send any help to Alaska.

IPOP has repeatedly stated *and proven* that it has world-class equipment made by world-class vendors for shallow marine operations. IPOP founders, experts, and workers have in excess of a decade of experience in shallow water operations. It is the greatest form of nonsense, lies, and exaggeration that the inland waters will experience the end of life as we know it on this planet. Mining has been going on in Nome for over 120 years and the area seems to have survived just fine.

IPOP was offered mining claims for upwards of \$20 million from Nome miners when IPOP first arrived. When IPOP refused these local proposals, these people suddenly wanted IPOP gone. IPOP saw it for what it was - nothing more than a commercial shakedown (that didn't work). These same people who were so eager to sell IPOP their mining claims just a few years ago, are the very people who are now protesting the project. Interestingly, they were praising the project when they were attempting to soak IPOP.

Nome Alaska, like many states now, is filled with residents living on government checks in the absence of jobs to go to and that is fine with IPOP. We have a great deal of compassion for these people who have lost their jobs due to things they had no control over. However, they should not be penalized and kept down because a few people got their feelings hurt when IPOP didn't fall for their schemes. Likewise, IPOP should not be penalized by the fact that we are American taxpayers and industrialists contributing millions to the local economy, and many millions more to the State of Alaska.

IPOP and its workers and partners have no need of stimulus checks from the government. Instead, we chose to contribute over \$3 million to the local Nome economy in the last three years, including paying taxes to the

city of Nome to the tune of about \$300,000. These people opposing IPOP in Nome have availed themselves of millions of dollars in assistance from the government and we are okay with that; however, when they start hurling the “end of the world” allegations our way, we find that flagrantly hypocritical. Without American taxpayers they would not be able to enjoy their assistance. In addition, these endless petitions and raffles that are held in an effort to motivate locals into writing letters in opposition is patently pathetic.

IPOP claims are in a very remote area that is no longer visited by hunters and fishers, and perhaps one or two a season are even seen down there due to the fact that the water is so shallow that wildlife is almost absent. The locals fish and hunt in the interior and in the ocean. This nonsense about seals is ridiculous because the average depth is less than 2 feet and seals are unable to navigate in the shallow waters. Only a few seals have been spotted in the last five years and they were near the Solomon bridge in the Solomon inlet and in each case, there is only one there for a short period of time. Any discussion with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game will confirm that the seals come out on the beaches of the Seward Peninsula.

***-Opposition To IPOP Has No Supporting Science, Just Hysteria. IPOP Has Science-***

IPOP has the constitutional right to mine its claims and it has the fiscal strength. It’s time to get Alaska and America back to work with high paying miner jobs, tax revenues, commerce and royalties. It’s time to bring prosperity to our nation and it’s time to help our President. As John Kennedy said, “Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country”

Yours truly,

C. Churchman, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am writing to offer my support and ask for your support and participation on the proposed IPOPOP mining project.

IPOPOP has been delayed for over four years by USACE.

USACE exceeded regulatory deadlines for responses to requests to conduct work on the IPOPOP mining claims. This is a factual assertion.

While our [former] USACE Project Manager was busy taking anti-IPOPOP surveys on the phone she continued to obstruct a permit to IPOPOP to mine our claims. In the meantime, Alaska is still flat broke.

Mining has been going on in Nome for 130 years and somehow, endangered species have magically shown up on IPOPOP claims, per USACE and Kawarek, Inc. This is in direct conflict with the known habitats of all 5 species Ms. Leslie Tose listed in one of her many interviews in KNOM and Nome Nugget, per Alaska Department of Fish & Game

IPOPOP was offered over \$22 million in mining claim "deals" from Nome miners when they first arrived. When IPOPOP refused these local offerings, they had new enemies who are suddenly concerned about feeding their families without the subsistence that doesn't exist on IPOPOP claims.

Surveys, petitions and raffles that are held to motivate the locals to write public comments in opposition to IPOPOP is patently pathetic. Leslie Tose was conducting the surveys from her direct line at the USACE and directing the public to ask bogus questions about issues with this mining project that don't exist.

To be perfectly honest, this conduct should be investigated at the *very least* and IPOPOP should be issued the permit that has been obstructed with game-playing, unfair treatment and bias tactics employed by a USACE employee. I believe it is literally the *very least* the USACE could do.

Any assistance you can give us is greatly appreciated.

Yours truly,

Celia P, IPOPOP LLC Limited Partner

cc:

- IPOPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
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Dear Commissioner Brune

I am one of IPOP's many supporters and one of roughly 150 limited partners. I encourage you to give IPOP the support they need, and Alaska needs to expedite the issuance of permits needed to begin dredging in the Bonanza Channel June 1, 2021. This project can produce tremendous benefits for Nome and for Alaska. This is especially important due to the ongoing economic crisis. IPOP creates jobs, pays taxes and produces wealth.

There is a large amount of gold present on IPOP claims in the Bonanza Channel and IPOP has presented supporting evidence for this in the permit application. This will provide royalties and taxes to Alaska and income taxes to the federal government. The mining operation and its employees and partners will consume food, fuel, and supplies. All or most of these items will be purchased from local businesses, boosting Nome commerce. The aggregate benefit to the government and to the economy will be millions of dollars per season.

This project is very innocuous, as it causes no harm to the local environment. The proposed operation involves dredging sand and water, removing the gold, and returning the sand and water to the place from which it was removed. No chemicals will be used in the processing of the gold. The Corps itself uses dredging in many locations.

A double turbidity curtain will be used to completely enclose the area being dredged. No fish, birds, or animals will be harmed. Contrary to local opinion, as stated in the public meeting on September 28, 2020, turbidity curtains do work. The USACE will undoubtedly concur with this, as they use them for a number of their dredging projects nationwide.

Every piece of equipment to be used has the most advanced sound reduction available, expunging the possibility of noise pollution or interference with residential and commercial rights to quiet and peaceful enjoyment of their premises.

IPOP expects that one dredge will mine approximately 20 acres per season, which is .001% of the entire 15,000 acres. Is that really enough to cause such outrage? Are we to believe that subsistence does not and cannot exist outside that minuscule fraction, consequently causing families to starve without it? That claim is neither logical nor reasonable.

Which leads me to the false objection of eelgrass. The eelgrass present on the claims IPOPOP proposes to dredge is 200'x200' which is a tiny fraction of the entire 600 acres – certainly too minuscule to withhold a permit at such great expense and consequence. This a statement of fact, as substantiated by the marine biologist commissioned by IPOPOP to conduct an extensive survey of the area. This study determines that the IPOPOP operation will not impact ecosystem function and mitigates net loss of eelgrass habitat function.

The State Constitution of Alaska provides for the right to mine claims, and IPOPOP has lawfully leased these inland waters from the State of Alaska for the sole purpose of suction dredge mining. IPOPOP has the right to mine and has demonstrated that it does so in a manner consistent with all applicable laws and regulations.

I appreciate that evaluation of this project requires weighing all relevant factors of the benefits expected to accrue from the project against reasonably foreseeable detriments. The consideration of the needs and welfare of the people must be literal, as the needs of one, may not be the needs of another. Typically, *wants* are often conveyed as *needs*. A want is a desire, while a need is about survival and safety; therefore, it must be treated as literal needs or requirements. Needs are about things such as air, food, water, shelter, clothing, love. A requirement, as a need, are things such as, one needs a license to drive, water to bathe, etc. IPOPOP does not violate the needs of the people. The only thing I have heard from people in opposition to IPOPOP are *wants*. They *want* IPOPOP to go back to California and stay far away from Alaska and to accomplish this, they *want* the USACE to continue to deny a permit to IPOPOP, and ultimately they *want* to stop IPOPOP from mining. IPOPOP needs, as a requirement, a permit to mine. This isn't crucial to actual survival such as food and water; however, it is needed in order to abide by the law and for *survival* of the project. IPOPOP has made a number of statements about the benefits of this project for the people, and have substantiated those statements with science. Those opposing IPOPOP have provided nothing but words, stating their wants – no science, no documented data, no proof to support what they *want*. They *say* things to support what they want; however, IPOPOP has science disproving the mere words of the opposition.

In the careful weighing of all factors in the evaluation of whether to issue a permit to IPOPOP, I request special attention to needs vs. wants and science vs. anecdotal conjecture.

Thank you for your careful consideration.

Regards,

C. Galbreath, Limited Partner IPOPOP LLC

cc:  
- IPOPOP, LLC  
- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law  
- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP  
- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
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Dear Commissioner Brune

I appreciate this opportunity to request your support and assistance in procuring a permit for the IPOP dredge mining project to mine its claims. I am one of over 150 IPOP backers in favor of conferring all essential permits to allow IPOP to begin mining without delay.

I performed extensive due diligence prior to partnering in this project, as I am an ardent, meticulous advocate for our environment. As a result of my research I concluded that utmost vigilance will be executed safely, absent durable harm to the environment. The benefits of this project more than offset any perceived risks or deficits.

My research revealed that IPOP is environmentally friendly. IPOP's operation will not add any chemicals to the environment. IPOP's operation will be enclosed within a double turbidity curtain. This will preclude the disbursement of turbidity to areas outside of the curtain. Gravity will dissever the gold from the sands and gravel.

IPOP will not transfigure the surface topology. IPOP will be dredging at or below the water line, then redepositing the dredged materials back into the same hole created by the dredging. Very little material will need to be relocated to other areas. There will be no permanent structures installed. All equipment will be removed either seasonally or at the end of the project.

The proven vast amount of gold present in these inland waters will be an economic boost to Nome, to Alaska, to the US federal government and to the partners. Summarily, everyone will benefit from this project. Even people in opposition this project will benefit from it. Royalties and taxes will be paid to Alaska. Taxes will be paid to the federal treasury and to Nome, in addition to trade with local businesses.



IPOP has been attentive to the objections to this project and has addressed these concerns with testing and scientifically supported data. Concerns regarding turbidity, eelgrass, noise, etc. have all been identified and shown to be erroneous.

IPOP will have an insignificant impact on the area. The dredge will mine 20 acres per season, which is a diminutive fraction of the entire area of Safety Sound and the Bonanza Channel. Subsistence usage of the region will not be affected.

Certainly you are aware of how the entire economy has been affected due to the present COVID crisis. Certainly you are also aware that Nome and the state of Alaska are not exceptions. Are you also aware that Alaska may be the hardest hit above all states in the nation? President Trump has issued a directive in a Presidential Executive Order to all federal agencies to do *everything* possible to *help* the economy recover. This project is one of the things that can do just that – help the economy recover. It will produce jobs and provide taxes, in addition to the 3% royalty Alaska will receive from IPOP.

I mentioned that there are over 150 limited partners in IPOP. We are all accredited, serious and responsible citizens. We pay taxes, have jobs and create jobs. Many of the partners have knowledge, skills, and experience that is directly applicable to this project. We have aggregate finances and ability to make this project a success. IPOP will be a tremendous asset for Nome and Alaska State.

IPOP has irrefutably proven this project to be safe, environmentally friendly, and of great benefit to all. I am convinced that IPOP should be granted the requested permits without further delay.

Sincerely,

C Howatt, IPOP LLC Backer

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Department of Fish and Game  
1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
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Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am one of 150+ limited partners in the IPOP dredge mining project and am writing to offer my support and approval of the issuance of all permits associated with this project, and to also request your support and approval for the issuance of all permits associated with this project.

I am aware of the objections to the IPOP gold dredge mining project in the Bonanza Channel, predominantly from Native Tribes and competing miners. This fact alone is objectionable to me, as the Native Tribes themselves are competing miners. The objective is to knock out their competition and literally steal IPOP's equipment and gold.

I know in a time of circulating conspiracy theories, this likely sounds like just another; however, I assure you it is not. The tribes and competing miners have been using the USACE to carry this out, and a simple review of the IPOP file will reveal this. I'll outline some of the hmmm...elements.

FIRST: They are questioning the presence of gold. Why is this a question? IPOP has presented indisputable evidence of an abundance of gold and USACE is in possession of that evidence, as core samples were presented in their permit application – as was required by USACE. Additionally, since when is a mining operation required to provide proof of gold to any agency, especially at IPOP's?

their own expense? Why would the USACE need to know how much gold is on IPOP claims before issuing the permit?

SECOND: There is the economy of Alaska, along with most of the country; consequently, it appears Alaska has been perhaps the hardest hit. There is a government budget shortfall. Other than tribal and government jobs, there doesn't seem to be much light at the end of the tunnel for Nome or the state of Alaska. Lumber is being taken over by Canada who is serving the mainland states and they are in a superior position to sell their lumber to those states. Tourism is nonexistent and there is certainly no rumor to the contrary. The price of oil was already plummeting prior to the pandemic and subsequent shut down of the economy spurred by COVID-19, and it has worsened since, while gold prices are rising. Mining may very well be the only thing that *can* rescue Alaska. IPOP is not only willing, but very much ready to take that risk and mine it, while USACE is asking people what they think about their only hope? If there is a single negative comment from native tribes who are raking in millions from the toxic Red Dog Mine I believe they should be disregarded as greed and jealousy based. They claim to be a sovereign nation, so why do they have a say at all? IPOP claims are not on their land, do not cross their land and do not access their land to get to their claims.

THIRD: There is the environment. **IPOP does not add chemicals to the environment** and will not harm any eelgrass. In fact, they have provided tangible evidence that very little eelgrass is present in their claims, at less than one tenth of one percent. They will use sonar and computer mapping to restore the dredged areas to their original form. And don't forget about the environmental destruction the other mining companies have caused, yet USACE signed off on those permits, such as Red Dog Mine just to mention one. Why then, with the proof IPOP has provided, is USACE still holding up the permit while they consider this?

FOURTH There is the Covid-19 crisis. Yes, that's a big one. Of course, we now have new science about that but it doesn't change what it did to our country. Alaska economy was already in trouble, then along came Covid and pretty much finished it off. President Trump gave Alaska over a billion dollars, which barely scratched the surface. How likely do you think it will be for Alaska to receive another penny, while you have a mining company who can help and USACE is busy making sure the eelgrass will be okay. What about the jobless families who probably aren't as well fed as the fish right about now? I guess there's no chance of *them* getting to the eelgrass for a salad.

FIFTH: The right to mine is protected in the Alaska Constitution. It doesn't have a preclusion for hurt feelings or if someone just doesn't like it. *Of course not everyone is going to like it*, not everybody likes driving the speed limit either, but we don't change it for them – they still have to abide by it. IPOP has made every effort to determine the validity of challenges that have been brought up in opposition to the project. These challenges have included turbidity, eelgrass, sound nuisance, endangered species (that the Native Tribes are killing off per ADFG), subsistence hunting, etc. These challenges have all been answered by IPOP with truth and science, which has proven the issues to be non-issues, yet still no permit for IPOP.

SIXTH: There is the use of these inland waters for subsistence as mentioned above. There are the many acres of the land to use as subsistence for hunting and fishing. The total area of Safety Sound and the Bonanza Channel is approximately 15,000 acres. IPOP will only be able to mine 20 acres or so per season with one dredge. Is this really a crucial distress? The dredging will be done in areas that are very difficult to access. Do people actually need to go there, specifically, to fish and hunt and take nature walks? It's a very tiny little area out of the entire region and they have another 14,980 acres to choose from for their desired activities. IPOP has provided government documents proving 0-6 subsistence permits issued for the area, zero on IPOP claims, all 6 in Nome. Yet again USACE is holding up a permit to consider this?

The benefits of this project vastly outweigh any potential, unsubstantiated losses or risks. President Trump enacted an executive order - that to my knowledge has not been overturned - to numerous agencies including USACE, to bypass these tedious objections and sign off on the permits. Governor Dunleavy has made his position abundantly clear in favor of permitting for all miners who will benefit Alaska.

I am asking for your support and intervention to grant the regulatory permits needed for this project to proceed expeditiously.

Sincerely,  
C Jones

cc:  
- IPOP, LLC  
- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law  
- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP  
- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune:

I support the IPOPOP mining project. I support this project because our country is in economic distress and I believe these types of projects can be the very thing we need to kickstart economic recovery. I supported this project prior to becoming a stakeholder. IPOPOP has been seeking permit approval and issuance to mine their claims for well over 4 years, yet USACE continues to find more tests and studies to require of IPOPOP.

I know there are some people who do not want this project to proceed. I sincerely hope you are weighing positive impact with negative impact. From my perspective, the opposers are acting out of a personal agenda, and IPOPOP is stepping up to the plate with science and data. The opposers have not made any offers of economic benefit. IPOPOP is going to give millions to Alaska with the 3% royalty. Opposers aren't offering a dime. IPOPOP has spent over \$3 million in Nome, donated to charities, bought goods at local businesses, and contributed to commerce. How many charities have the opposers donated to?

The claims the opposers are kicking and screaming about subsistence existing right there on the IPOPOP claim. I don't believe that for a minute. IPOPOP is dredging about 20 acres per season, out of 15,000. But all the subsistence hunting is on that specific 20 acres and nowhere else? If their families are going to go hungry, that is effectively what they're saying...and expecting the Corps to believe it. And where's their proof? Interestingly, many of the opposers tried to sell IPOPOP claims, land, etc in 2018 and were singing our praises (copy of one of the offers to sell attached).

I don't support any group that fights against economic prosperity, and in this case – recovery. Recovery must start somewhere and the federal government has that start sitting right in front of them and they aren't jumping on it.

There are so many reasons to support this project and oppose the opposers I could write an essay on it – but I won't. I'll just say, what is the Corps waiting for?

I believe this can be considered an urgent request to permit this mining company so Alaska can have a chance. Please help us in procuring this long overdue permit so we can mine our claims – as is our right to do, per Alaska State Constitution.

C. Justice, IPOP LLC Backer

---

cc:

- IPOP, LLC
- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law
- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP
- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Attachment

*Hello Ed,*

*I am undecided about selling gravel from our patented mining claims on the Solomon River at about 35 Mile on the Council Road.*

*Our claims are mostly on the east side of the river and begin at the end of the bucket dredge tailing. I have intended to begin bulk sampling and mining at the east end of the property where the old tailings end and may do so this late summer/fall. I think the ground is 20 to 30 ft. to bedrock. The gravel did pass a gradation test to be okay for use on Alaska DOT&PF projects.*

*I have 3 dozers, 3 excavators, a loader, and 2 4' diameter trommels, a bunch of pumps and miscellaneous equipment in Nome or being used in our outlying mining camp. It sounds like your cutter head dredge and cleanup of any mercury would be ideal for this property. You would be mining in a closed pond and should not have any issues with getting silt in the Solomon River. **It would be very important to talk to the Solomon Village Corporation.***

*We did have APMA permits for mining but did not renew them. On private patented land my understanding is that you only need to file a reclamation plan with the state and obtain a permit for crossing the Solomon River. (I have one.) It is possible the Corps of Engineers could say they have jurisdiction on wetlands but I do not believe that is valid, so it may be better to file an APMA (too late this year).*

*My idea of end use of the property is to extract gravel and stockpile; leave connecting ponds for use for salmon spawning; building elevated pads for recreational cabins.*

*I have not tried to sell this property **but will offer it to you until July 18, 2018 for \$860,000.** Attached is a 2011 report on the property and a Google map pdf of the area.*

**Regards,**  
**Don Mullikin**  
**[907-235-8975](tel:907-235-8975)**



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Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am appealing to you for help. I am one of the many limited partners of the IPOP dredge mining operation near Nome in the Bonanza Channel. I support this project and the immediate issuance of all permits to commence operations at once and I am asking for your support and assistance in obtaining our permits to mine our claims.

For over 4 years, IPOP has complied with every mandate, every request, every guideline and navigated through every barricade put in its way by the USACE, yet we have not been issued a permit to mine our claims. There is no valid reason for this.

- The Corps required a core sample to prove the presence and quantity of gold on our claims, which is *not* listed among the requirements for a permit on the USACE's website under the permitting section. IPOP knew this; however, they complied with the request. After IPOP agreed to do it, at their own cost, the Corps sat on the request for coring permit for over 18 months before allowing IPOP to perform the very action *they* required. IPOP proved vast amounts of gold, yet the Corps continued to state there wasn't enough gold there – which was a blatant lie.
- IPOP proved no turbidity was created by their equipment due to the lack of current in the very shallow waters, yet the Corps was still dissatisfied so IPOP offered to purchase and employ a turbidity curtain. The test proved that nothing was disturbed around the area outside of the curtain. The Corps was still dissatisfied so IPOP offered to purchase a second curtain to surround the first curtain. Obviously, the test came back as expected – no turbidity. Yet the Corps is still giving voice to those opposed to the project regarding turbidity, claiming that “everyone knows turbidity curtains don't work”. I wonder if the Corps knows that, given the fact that they regularly use them on a great number of their own dredging projects.

- IPOPOP has performed numerous tests and scientific studies to prove the operation friendly and safe to the environment. Given the fact that IPOPOP does not use chemicals, the results should have been readily accepted, but they weren't. IPOPOP was required to perform countless tests and studies at their own expense. The studies and tests conclude the operation to be environmentally safe and friendly and will cause no enduring disruption, distress or injury to the environment or wildlife.
- Additionally, there have been accusations of IPOPOP disrupting and/or adversely affecting eelgrass, subsistence hunting, berry picking, nature walks, bird watching, endangered species, fishing, spawning, whale passage (in less than 18 inches of water), noise, destruction of land, Nome economy, encroachment on native land, and the opposers have even gone so far as to say IPOPOP's mining claims are invalid.

Opposers are reaching for any possible reason they can think of to stop IPOPOP from mining its claims, all of which have been disproven with science. Opposers have failed to conduct any testing, scientific studies or deliver proof of any kind, other than a native tribe member with photograph of a 25lb halibut he allegedly caught on an IPOPOP claim...again, in about a foot of water. Why the Corps is pandering to this nonsense is beyond me, all I know is that it is keeping IPOPOP from mining.

The economy of Nome, the economy of Alaska, and the United States will greatly benefit from IPOPOP's mining project on the Seward Peninsula. IPOPOP has proven significant gold presence on their owned claims in the Bonanza Channel have the right to mine it.

The COVID-19 crisis has and is deeply affecting the country. People need jobs. Federal, state, and local governments need taxes. IPOPOP can help to fill these needs. **! urge you to support IPOPOP in our endeavor to expedite the immediate issuance of all required permits to IPOPOP to accomplish this, and commence mining in June, 2021.**

Sincerely,

C Lehman, Limited Partner IPOPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



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Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune,

I am a backer of the IPOP gold mining project and very much support a permit approval and issuance.

Last year I made a decision to participate in the public comment posting, although I was unaware of why there was a requirement for the public comment period since President Donald J. Trump abolished this step in June of 2020 and the comment period ran from July 31-September 30, 2020 (including 2 extensions that were accommodated at the request of a couple of native tribes).

Having been a resident of Alaska for a few years, I cannot understand why IPOP has not been issued a permit to mine their claims; particularly in the wake of the disastrous effects the COVID virus has had on Alaska. For the past 4 years IPOP has been applying for a mining permit to no avail, having been met with adversity and additional state unconstitutional demands from the Army Corps of Engineers.

About 4 years ago Governor Michael Dunleavy said "Alaska is open for business, come up and mine." He said it again about a year ago, standing next to President Trump in the televised speech from the rose garden. Yet still, no permit has been issued. Alaska needs the money. I can only presume IPOP's project manager at the Corps simply did not care about the state because she works for the federal government. Perhaps it was a matter of ego, that she didn't want to "give in" to IPOP. In any case, it hasn't been fair or just to the residents of Alaska, IPOP and its backers or other citizens of our country.

IPOP has proven indeterminable amounts of gold on its claims through the coring samples, which will be of great benefit to Alaska, such as:

- IPOP will contribute to Alaska's economy
- Millions will go to Juneau to support Alaskan economy
- 3% royalty of all gold produced goes to Alaska as a royalty partner
- All IPOP backers are tax paying citizens of our country, creating jobs for Alaskans and for our own states

- IPOPOP lawfully purchased its claims and have as much legal right to mine them as any other miner currently mining their claims
- IPOPOP has spent about \$12 million in Alaska to date
- IPOPOP is comprised of taxpayers making investments, not idlers receiving government handouts
- IPOPOP is only mining 20 acres per season, which is considered a small mining company
- The discontented tribes own some of the largest mines in the world and are making millions mining them
- IPOPOP is **not** on native lands, only state lands and state waters
- IPOPOP has no need for ingress or egress on native lands
- IPOPOP has proven it will create **no** negative effects to fish life or vegetation

In closing, I am very much opposed to the withholding of a permit to IPOPOP to mine its legally owned/leased claims. Further withholding of a permit will cost IPOPOP and Alaska millions of dollars, in addition to the millions of dollars already lost. Does USACE truly wish to be responsible for that?

I would very much appreciate your help with this issue if you are willing. IPOPOP has been guided by the State agencies and the Corps to proceed mining in a manner that can be beneficial to both the environment and the nation. Mining jobs are high paying positions and the economic benefit to local economies are important. Once again, IPOPOP is on state land and waters and Alaska needs the economic benefits derived from their resource wealth.

Very truly yours,  
C Paul, IPOPOP LLC Backer

cc:

- IPOPOP, LLC
- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law
- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP
- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am asking you for help, in favor of a mining permit for IPOP to mine their claims in the Bonanza Channel. I am a limited partner in IPOP and would like to share my thoughts on the proposed IPOP mining project and concerns about USACE as it pertains to the project.

Today we find ourselves at a point where the nation and Alaska are flat broke, and when examined in the harsh light of budget revenues fallen way short of forecasts. IPOP has repeatedly stated that it has world-class equipment made by world-class vendors for shallow marine operations. IPOP founders, experts, and workers have far more than 100 years of experience in shallow water operations. It is the greatest form of nonsense, lies, and exaggeration that the inland waters will experience the end of life as we know it on this planet. Mining has been going on in Nome for 130 years in the area is just fine. IPOP was offered \$22 million worth of “deals” from the locals when IPOP first arrived and when IPOP refused these local offerings then all of a sudden, we had enemies. It was a financial shakedown. Nome Alaska is full of folks living off the government checks in their mailbox and that is fine with IPOP. However, we should not be penalized by the fact that we are American taxpayers and businesspeople contributing millions to the local economy, and many millions more from the state of Alaska.

IPOP and its workers and partners have no need for Covid government money and instead have contributed \$3 million to the local Nome economy in the last three years, including paying taxes to the city of Nome for almost \$300,000. Many of those opposing us in Nome have availed themselves of millions of dollars of assistance from the government and we are okay with that. But when they start hurling the “end of the world” allegations against us, we find that massively hypocritical. Without American taxpayers they would not be able to enjoy their assistance.

In addition, these endless petitions and raffles that are held for the locals to be motivated to write something in opposition is patently disgusting. IPOP placer mining claims are in a very remote area that is no longer visited by hunters and fishers, and perhaps one or two a season are even seen down there due to the fact that the water is so shallow that wildlife is almost absent. The locals fish and hunt in the interior and in the ocean. This nonsense about seals is ridiculous because the average depth is less than 2 feet and seals can't even navigate in the shallow waters. Only a few seals have been spotted in the last three years and they are near the Solomon bridge in the Solomon inlet and in

each case, there is only one there for a short period of time, they do not reside there. Any discussion with Fish and Game will confirm that the seals come out on the beaches of the Seward Peninsula. These are overt delay tactics to keep IPOPOP from mining its claims.

IPOPOP isn't simply out for itself, IPOPOP wants to put Alaska and America back to work with high-paying miner jobs. IPOPOP has the constitutional right to mine its claims and it has the fiscal strength.

Yours truly,  
C Spinato, Limited Partner IPOPOP LLC

*cc:*

- IPOPOP, LLC*
- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law*
- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP*
- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

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**Congressman Don Young**  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am a supporter and limited partner of IPOP, LLC. I also support the rights of United States citizens to mine the mineral resources of the state of Alaska. It is critically important that the truth be told as it relates to the statements of opposition to the IPOP project. Since 2017, notwithstanding with the interference of the now former USACE Project Manager, IPOP has made numerous, documented attempts to meet with and make presentations to the native tribes opposing the project. Should the truth have bearing in this process, please allow me to present you with the truth.

IPOP has been through numerous delays and obstruction by Leslie Tose, who is far from impartial. Ms. Tose has actively assisted the native organizations in opposition to IPOP to kill this project, while acting as Project Manager for permitting the IPOP project. It is well known in Alaska that native organizations historically oppose nearly every proposed project in Alaska involving mineral resources. Since 2017, numerous USACE guidelines and regulations have been violated by IPOP's USACE project manager Ms Tose. Meanwhile, IPOP has proven that it has no intention of abandoning its massive gold discovery in the Bonanza channel, which will provide hundreds of millions of dollars to Alaska. IPOP is a faith and charity based operation. IPOP has spent millions in Nome and has made numerous charitable contributions. Despite this, the local tribal organizations falsely claim that IPOP has failed at community outreach. Nothing could be further from the truth. There are certain native organizations in Nome continuing a slanderous and libelous campaign of lies and false allegations against IPOP. I acknowledge that Ms. Tose is no longer on the IPOP project, but that didn't stop her from accommodating Nome Nugget interviews and conducting opposition telephonic surveys from the USACE office on her direct phone line. This is not an opinion, this is a fact.

IPOP was hopeful that their most recent scientific reports based on science and conducted at great expense, would overcome the emotional playbook hysteria that seem to be present by these same organizations who use that playbook every day. It is sadly ironic that the success of the mineral exploration in Alaska built the state, while it created a dependency state among many of its residents. This irony is about to come to an end as the Prudhoe Bay discovery money is running out. The USACE should work with IPOP, not against it.

Alaska has the mineral wealth Alaskans and all Americans deserve. Per Alaska State Constitution, every American citizen of majority age has the right to mine Alaska's resources, regardless of which state they reside. IPOP is an American company and 100% of the limited partnership and principles are American citizens of majority age, residing in the United States in a number of states throughout the country.

I appeal to your ethics and commitment to your position to help IPOP secure the warranted permits needed to begin mining its claims in June 2021.

Very truly yours,

D. Arola, Limited Partner IPOP LLC

*cc:*

*- IPOP, LLC*

*- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law*

*- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP*

*- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

Governor Mike Dunleavy  
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**Commissioner Jason Brune, ADEC**  
**Department of Environmental**  
**Conservation**  
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1255 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune,

I thank you for your time to read my letter regarding this IPOP dredge mining operation permitting process. Below is my commentary as I see things.

I am a limited partner in the IPOP dredge mining project in the Bonanza Channel and I am in favor of a mining permit to IPOP, but not simply because I have a financial interest. I am very much aware of the opposition to the project; however, opposition alone does not deny any mining company a permit to mine their legally obtained claims...or at least it shouldn't. Opposition doesn't boost the economy, pay taxes, feed families, create jobs, or yield income for the state of Alaska through its royalty and mining tax.

IPOP recognizes that the vocal opposition to the proposed project is baseless and propelled by negative emotion and deceit. Certainly the Corps must recognize this, as the opposition has failed to prove a single accusation. It is crucial that the Corps not only recognize this but must also possess an accurate understanding of IPOP's commitment to the environment of the Bonanza Channel and to the financial future of Nome and Alaska. Some of this opposition resents IPOP for finding gold – and lots of it – in a remote, all but forgotten area, presumed for years, to be deplete of gold. They mitigate this resentment by spreading misinformation. As a result, there is a small group who are fighting something that doesn't exist. There is a Facebook site, Stop IPOP: Keep Safety Safe; *IPOP did not apply for a permit in Safety Sound* and referencing it is blatantly dishonest. What this boils down to, is an attempt to drum up opposition based upon nonexistent issues; therefore, objections based upon these falsehoods must be disregarded and not taken into account as opposition. This is a form of bullying to get what they want, with no regard for any other factor. Their sole agenda is to do what the site betrays: stop IPOP.

*“The simple truth is that for every project of Alaska unceremoniously canceled by mob rule, those natural resources in question will continue to be sourced from foreign suppliers that generate harmful pollution and human suffering”.*

~Governor Michael Dunleavy

I very much appreciate your attention to the issues contained within this letter. I ask for not only your support but any help you are able to provide.

Very truly yours,

D Bilden, Limited Partner, IPOP LLC

cc:

- IPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



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Congressman Don Young  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Commissioner Brune

I am an American citizen and an IPOP supporter and limited partner. I am writing to you to ask you to support the issuance of the permits required for the IPOP dredge mining project in the Bonanza Channel.

I love my country; therefore, every state contained within. I do not reside in Alaska, although I have a number of family members who do, whom my husband and I visit often. It is from our family that we became aware of this project. It was with great sadness that I witnessed our family (scattered throughout the state) have such hope and enthusiasm about recovery through this project, which is now waning due to the unending delays and demands from the federal agencies, especially the USACE.

As you are aware, on June 4, 2020 the President of the United States issued an Executive Order which would grant IPOP the opportunity to mine in the 2020 season. In addition to the President, the Governor of Alaska has made it very clear through his own proclamation that "Alaska is open for business" which includes one of its most precious financial resources, mining. Unfortunately, the USACE thumbed their noses at the EO, accommodated a comment period, required further studies and did not issue the permit...again. This has been going on for over 4 years.

I am aware of the biased and prejudicial nature in which the IPOP permitting request was handled by the USACE project manager for IPOP for over 3 years. USACE has demonstrated prejudice and bias publicly, using well known media outlets, social media and word of mouth. While USACE continued to deny IPOP's permit, permits were freely granted to personal friends of the project manager, such as a mineral claim owner, Colby Engstrom, mining his claims in the Bonanza Channel positioned at the mouth of the Solomon River. IPOP's project manager has shown herself to be a friend of the opposition by taking up causes against IPOP and supporting and encouraging adversity from some native tribes and affiliates.

IPOP's coring samples indicate such a significant amount of gold present on their claims in the Bonanza Channel, the Alaska Mining Association published an article about the "massive gold discovery". Every day that IPOP is not mining is a substantial loss of revenue to Alaskans and to IPOP and its partners, all of whom are American citizens. Despite the financial revenue IPOP will bring to the State of Alaska and to its citizens, USACE has deliberately and prejudicially delayed and obstructed IPOP's numerous attempts to obtain a number of permits, including but certainly not limited to a mining permit. IPOP has met every demand and request issued by USACE, yet has not been granted a mining permit.

Governor Michael Dunleavy was quoted as saying "*I know there are times that members of society give mining a bad rap even though they live a life supported by mining ... that is the irony of the whole thing. But it is going to be mining that gets us out of where we are today and where we are going to go. Because the future of society, of civilization is really based upon mining.*" Governor Dunleavy was specifically speaking of the very members of society

who are opposing this project, just as they do every project that isn't their own. The hypocrisy of this is not only evident to the Governor, but to the citizens who are counting on this project as well.

While the USACE is attending to the feelings of these members of society, IPOPOP has suffered a substantial loss of revenue it is not receiving, for which USACE is directly responsible with deliberate attempts to sabotage IPOPOP's efforts to mine while withholding their permit.

IPOPOP has paid out millions of dollars on additional testing, scientific studies, wages and incidental expense. Many of these studies and tests are repeats that had already scientifically proven IPOPOP's assertions. Every additional and repeated scientific study costs IPOPOP thousands of dollars. It is also a substantial loss of revenue to the State of Alaska. It is imperative for all parties involved that a mining permit be granted immediately. The failure to do so could bring great harm to the economy and to the citizens of Alaska.

I encourage you to see through the baseless, emotional objections and recognize the importance of issuing a mining permit for now the 4<sup>th</sup> year, the 2021 season, especially considering that the price of gold is very high right now. Granting a permit to IPOPOP allows us to work cooperatively to benefit not only IPOPOP, but the economy of Nome and every citizen of the great State of Alaska.

As the avid supporter of the IPOPOP project that I am, I submit my request for you to support the granting of all required mining permits to IPOPOP.

Sincerely,  
DB Laughead, IPOPOP LLC Backer

cc:

- IPOPOP, LLC

- J.P. Tangen, Attorney at Law

- James L. Buchal, Attorney at Law, Murphy & Buchal LLP

- Colonel Damon Delarosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers