



Council of

Alaska Producers

**Draft Waste Management Permit 2023DB0001
Comments supporting a Waste Management
Permit Project for the Manh Choh project**

March 13, 2023

Ashlee Adoko, Large Project Coordinator
DNR / Office of Project Management & Permitting
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1430
Anchorage, AK 99501-3577
Submitted by email to manh.choh.comments@alaska.gov

Dear Ms. Adoko,

The Council of Alaska Producers (CAP) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments in support of Peak Gold's application for a State of Alaska Integrated Waste Management Permit for the Manh Choh project.

Formed in 1992, CAP is a non-profit trade association that works to inspire Alaskans to realize a shared goal of sustainable mineral production, providing economic and social benefits to our communities and the people of Alaska. CAP represents the interests of Alaska's five large metal mines and several advanced projects, informing members on legislative and regulatory issues, advocating for the mining industry, and educating members, the media, and the general public on mining related issues.

The operator of the project, Kinross Alaska, has been a member of the CAP since the early 1990s and has a strong track record in Alaska with the ongoing operations at the Fort Knox mine and the successful operation, closure, and reclamation of the True North mine. The proposed plan for Manh Choh is an environmentally responsible project that would bring economic benefit to Interior Alaska, particularly the communities of Tetlin and Tok. The plan to haul ore for processing at the underutilized mill at Fort Knox minimizes the project's footprint by avoiding the need for an additional mill or tailings storage facility.

Manh Choh will create millions of dollars of economic activity by creating an estimated 500 jobs during operation. This will make Manh Choh the region's second largest private employer and source of income. These new job opportunities for local and statewide residents will also result in training and development of lifelong career-building skills. In addition to new jobs, the project will create opportunities for new and existing businesses in Tok, Delta Junction, and nearby communities, as well as growth potential for existing Kinross vendors in Fairbanks and other locations in Alaska.

CAP fully supports the issuance of this waste management permit so the project can move forward and bring these benefits to communities in Interior Alaska and to the state's economy.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Matthias", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Karen Matthias
Executive Director