



KAWERAK, INC.

REPRESENTING

Brevig Mission

Sitaisaq

Council

Diomede

Injaliq

Elim

Niviarcaurluq

Gambell

Sivuqaq

Golovin

Chinik

King Island

Ugiuvak

Koyuk

Kuuyuk

Mary's Igloo

Qawiaraq

Nome Eskimo

Sitnasuak Inuit

Savoonga

Sivungaq

Shaktoolik

Saktuliq

Shishmaref

Qikiqtaq

Solomon

Anuutaq

St. Michael

Taciq

Stebbins

Tapraq

Teller

Tala

Unalakleet

Unalaqtiq

Wales

Kinigin

White Mountain

Iḡatluik /

Nutchirviq

Kawerak Incorporated Resolution 2024-23

A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF URANIUM MINING ON OR NEAR THE BOULDER CREEK AREA ON THE SEWARD PENINSULA OF ALASKA

WHEREAS, Panther Minerals AK, a Canadian mining company, is currently in an agreement with the State of Alaska to drill and explore for uranium mining on, and or near, the Boulder Creek-Fireweed area, also referred to by the State as within *Sections 5, 11, 14, 23, 24, Township 5 South, Range 18 West, Kateel River Meridian; Section 35, Township 4 South, Range 18 West, Kateel River Meridian Sections 13, 14, 15, 22-24, Township 3 South, Range 19 West, Kateel River Meridian*, and by the USGS 1:250,000 Quadrangle "Bendeleben"; AND,

WHEREAS, Kawerak, Inc. is a tribally authorized non-profit consortium whose mission is to assist, promote and provide programs and services to improve the social, economic, educational, and cultural well-being of Bering Strait region Peoples; AND,

WHEREAS, the tribes within the Kawerak region include: Brevig Mission, Council, Diomede, Elim, Gambell, Golovin, King Island, Koyuk, Mary's Igloo, Nome, Savoonga, Shaktoolik, Shishmaref, Solomon, Stebbins, St. Michael, Teller, Unalakleet, Wales and White Mountain; AND,

WHEREAS, contamination of waters, fish, animals, plants, birds, and ecosystems of the area poses the largest threat to the food security of the residents of the region, eighty percent (80%) of whose diet is comprised primarily of subsistence foods¹; AND,

WHEREAS, the Kawerak Board strongly expresses our deep concern for the damaging effects that uranium mining and its associated contamination has on the waters, lands, air, fish, birds, animals, and plant life, on which human and non-human relatives rely; AND,

¹ Ahmasuk, et al., Bering Strait Region Local and Traditional Knowledge Pilot Project – A Comprehensive Subsistence Use Study of the Bering Strait Region, North Pacific Research Board (January 2008) and also, Building Food Security in Alaska, State Commissioned Report. Ken Meter and Megan Phillips Goldenberg, 2014.

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/584221c6725e25d0d2a19363/t/58b0e030ebbd1abb37f85817/1487986738928/14-09-17_building-food-security-in-ak_exec-summary-recommendations.pdf

KAWERAK, INC.

PO Box 948 • Nome Alaska 99762 • 907.443.5231 • www.kawerak.org

Advancing the capacity of our people and tribes for the benefit of the region

WHEREAS, if uranium mining (exploration or development) is allowed to move forward, the Kawerak Board is concerned about the impacts its direct contamination will have on the Boulder Creek area, and its tributaries leading into lakes, streams, and into the Tubutulik River; AND,

WHEREAS, if uranium mining (exploration or development) is allowed to move forward, the Kawerak Board is concerned about the impacts its contamination via uranium dust and radon released into the air will have, directly impacting the health and wellbeing of residents of the Seward Peninsula; AND,

WHEREAS, previous tests indicate that area soils also contain arsenic and molybdenum², elements that when dug up and exposed to water, these toxic materials are easily released into the environment and are no longer contained in the land, but instead are highly mobile in water sources, causing harm to humans, animals, and the environment across a large and difficult to predict area; AND,

WHEREAS, uranium mining causes substantial amounts of waste in the form of radioactive rock to be exposed, thousands of acres of pristine ecosystems to be destroyed, watersheds to be contaminated for thousands of years, and the impacts of uranium, radon, and highly toxic industrial solvents, strong acids and bases to be used in the processing of uranium, which cause cancers, immune diseases, and long-term health impacts; AND,

WHEREAS, contamination in water and air does not follow map boundaries related to separate land managers that refuse to engage in consideration of these real, known, and specific risks that should in fact be considered as a whole across all related land managers involved in any decision-making related to the exploration and potential development of any uranium mining being considered on the Seward Peninsula; AND,

WHEREAS, residents of the Seward Peninsula would be exposed to all of these known risks, as well as unknown risks, through the development of a uranium mine in the Boulder Creek area; AND,

WHEREAS, "All comments received for proposed exploration voiced their opposition to the project"³; AND,

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska's position is stated as, "managing state lands and resources to support a vital, self-sustaining local economy,"⁴ which as previously noted in this resolution, the local economy is deeply invested in the provision of subsistence food to support regional food security; AND,

² Triex minerals. Boulder Creek Property. Available:
<http://www.triexminerals.com/s/BoulderCreek.asp>

³ State of Alaska Attachment A: F20249828 Public Comments and Responses

⁴ Ibid.

KAWERAK, INC.

PO Box 948 • Nome Alaska 99762 • 907.443.5231 • www.kawerak.org

Advancing the capacity of our people and tribes for the benefit of the region.



WHEREAS, the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources document entitled “APMAF20249828 Boulder Creek-Fireweed Uranium Tubutulik River, Boulder Creek & Granite Creek Koyuk Mining District Memorandum of Decision” fails to consider any of these items; AND,

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska, Panther Mining AK, and all related parties have yet to engage the relevant Tribes via formal consultation processes about this proposed mine, processes that the State of Alaska has recognized a responsibility to engage in since at least 2002; AND,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Kawerak Board of Directors categorically opposes development of a uranium mine on and or near the Boulder Creek area near Elim, or elsewhere on the Seward Peninsula of Alaska, to protect the health of the region’s residents; to protect the food security of the region’s residents; to protect region’s residents from exposure to uranium dust and radon gas; to protect region’s residents from exposure to other radioactive contaminants introduced through uranium mining (exploration and/or development); to protect the region’s ecosystems, watersheds, and non-human residents from unanticipated contaminations; AND,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Kawerak Board strongly urges the State of Alaska to pause any and all approvals of exploration and/or development of potential uranium mining on the Seward Peninsula; conduct appropriate education and stakeholder analysis, community engagement and seek input from residents in the region in such a way that their input can be substantially taken into consideration ahead of any further movement related to mining. The Board also encourages the State of Alaska, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to enter into Tribal Consultation with impacted Tribal Nations of the Kawerak region, regarding the possible development of the Boulder Creek uranium deposit.

CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned Frank Katchatag, Chairman and Kirsten Timbers, Secretary of the Kawerak, Inc. Board of Directors, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by majority vote of the Executive Committee during a duly called meeting on December 17, 2024.

By: 
Kawerak Chairman, Frank Katchatag


Kawerak Secretary, Kirsten Timbers

KAWERAK, INC.

PO Box 948 • Nome Alaska 99762 • 907.443.5231 • www.kawerak.org

Advancing the capacity of our people and tribes for the benefit of the region.

