

February 11, 2022

Gregory J. Mazer  
Fairbanks Field Office  
Regulatory Division (1145)  
CEPOA-RD  
PO Box 35066  
Fort Wainwright, Alaska 99703

**Re:** Comments on Peak Gold's application for a 404 Wetlands Permit, **POA-2013-00286**

Dear Mr. Mazer,

The Alaska Chamber (the Chamber) is writing in support of Peak Gold's application for a 404 Wetlands Permit for the Manh Choh gold project.

The Alaska Chamber was founded in 1953, and our mission is to promote a healthy business environment in Alaska. The Chamber has more than 700 members and represent businesses of all sizes and industries from across the state.

If permitted, the plan Peak Gold has developed will create an estimated 400 - 600 jobs during operation with employees earning an average salary of \$130,000 annually. The positive economic impact to this region of Alaska cannot be understated, as few jobs are currently available in the region. In addition to the jobs provided, the project will result in more affordable energy, increased broadband coverage, and enhanced roads for Alaskans living in the region. With the hundreds of construction and mine operation jobs this project will provide, so will the training, internships, and scholarships for young Alaskans. This project is exactly what we need to get Alaska and our next generation of workers prepared for careers in transportation, construction, and mining.

Importantly, all of the economic benefits of the project can be achieved while also developing responsibly. The plan minimizes the project's footprint by hauling ore to Fort Knox for processing, avoiding the need for a mill, cyanide application or tailings storage facility. It utilizes existing infrastructure, primarily the highway system and the underutilized mill at Fort Knox.

This project is the type of responsible development we need to get Alaska and our nation back on the path of economic recovery. The Chamber urges the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to approve this permit application and allow the project to move forward.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,



Kati Capozzi, President & CEO  
Alaska Chamber

