

January 26, 2026

The Right Honourable Mark Carney  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0A2

Prime Minister Carney:

I write in strong support of U.S. and Canadian actions to secure our supply chains for metals and critical minerals, and to raise an ongoing concern regarding Canadian mines polluting Alaskan transboundary waters. Both our countries recognize the strategic importance of metals and critical minerals for national security, manufacturing and energy. Cooperation in these areas is ongoing and necessary. However, it must not come at the expense of downstream communities' cultural heritage, economy and environment.

Since Alaska shares rivers, fisheries, and ecosystems with Canada, those shared resources are put at risk with the increased mining activity in British Columbia and Yukon. Contaminated mine tailings water is released into river systems that flow directly into Alaska. These discharges threaten salmon runs, drinking water, and the subsistence way of life for Alaska Native communities. This is not an abstract concern; it is a real and potentially escalating problem that demands immediate attention.

A continuing example of Canadian impacts to Alaska's rivers is Canada's Tulsequah Chief mine, which has been leaking acid mine drainage into a transboundary river system for almost 70 years — since before Alaska was even a state. We commend recent voluntary efforts by Teck Resources to help plan the remediation required for the Tulsequah Chief, and we support continued private sector efforts after Teck's recent merger with Anglo American. However, to actually remediate the mine will take far more than voluntary efforts, and ultimately it is the responsibility of the federal and provincial governments in Canada to ensure clean up, as the U.S. has requested for decades.

I have raised these issues directly with senior officials throughout the U.S. Administration. I have made it clear that Alaska's transboundary water concerns must be treated as a priority—not sidelined—in any negotiations or agreements with Canada, including those related to critical minerals, trade, or broader bilateral cooperation. The United States has an obligation to defend its waters and its people, and I am confident that Canada meets the same standard of responsibility.

I think the best way to uphold these shared responsibilities are to ensure we take all efforts to prevent environmental damage caused by mines, so that we don't have to clean up later. Specifically, I have called for the U.S. and Canada, within an established bilateral framework, to establish robust consultation requirements and a dispute resolution mechanism with stakeholders on both sides of the border on proposed and existing transboundary mines. I have also called for future U.S. government investment in Canadian mines to be paired with a Canadian commitment to clean up transboundary mines, including the Tulsequah Chief, and ensure reclamation bonding requirements on future mines are similar on both sides of the border.

Responsible mineral development is possible, but only if it is backed by enforceable safeguards, transparent monitoring, and accountability when pollution crosses an international border. I look forward to increased coordination between Canadian and U.S. officials and concrete progress toward solutions that uphold both environmental protection and supply chain security.

Thank you to you and your leadership for focusing on this pressing issue.

Sincerely,



Dan Sullivan  
United States Senator

Copy to: Secretary of State Marco Rubio  
U.S. Ambassador to Canada Pete Hoekstra  
Canadian Ambassador to the U.S. Kirsten Hillman