



December 11, 2017

Andrew Nakashuk
Chair, Nunavut Planning Commission
P.O. Box 1797
Iqaluit, Nunavut X0A 0H0

Email: anakashuk@nunavut.ca

RE: Amendment for the North Baffin Land Use Plan Hearing in Pond Inlet

Dear Mr. Chair:

On behalf of the minerals industry in Nunavut, we are writing to express our support for the Amendment to the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan (LUP) being proposed by Baffinland Iron Mines Limited. The Chamber strongly recommends that the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) grant Baffinland the land use plan amendment so that the phase 2 proposal can proceed to the environmental assessment.

Under the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement, “the primary purpose of land use planning in the Nunavut Settlement Area shall be to protect and promote the existing and future well being of those persons ordinarily resident and communities of the Nunavut Settlement Area taking into account the interests of all Canadians; special attention shall be devoted to protecting and promoting the existing and future well-being of Inuit and Inuit Owned Lands;”. With this, and in light of rail making the mine more sustainable economically, the NPC should support the use of rail at Mary River given the following additional considerations:

- Rail emits around half as much CO₂ per tonne of material transported compared to truck;
- Less Volatile Organic Compounds per tonne of material transported compared to truck;
- Far less fuel used per tonne of material transported compared to truck, which reduces fuel transport, storage, and overall risk of spills;
- Rail transport is much quieter than road transportation, a key factor in mitigating wildlife effects;
- Rail traffic is statistically safer than truck transportation despite high profile derailments.

The NPC can protect and promote the well-being of Nunavummiut by amending the LUP to allow for rail.

There is also support for the amendment from Indigenous and Northern Affairs and the Government of Nunavut. The Hunters and Trappers in Pond Inlet have stated they are not opposed to the amendment and committed to participate in the environmental assessment process. The Qikiqtani Inuit Association made reference that NPC can find enough information to proceed with the amendment. Finally, Baffinland stated that there is no evidence provided to prevent NPC from

proceeding with the amendment. As has been evident in all of the submissions to the NIRB, a railway to Milne Inlet has always been contemplated. This alternative transportation corridor may be the most economical transportation corridor for the Mary River Project to get the iron ore to the coast for shipping, and cannot be ignored.

To date, Baffinland has spent hundreds of millions of dollars to develop the Mary River project and has made significant contributions to the well-being of all Nunavummiut. In 2016 alone, Inuit employment and contractors totalled 905 full-time positions. Baffinland has listened to community concerns and continues to proactively engage community members to hear their concerns relating to the project.

The Chamber trusts the letter will be given full consideration by the Nunavut Planning Commission and that approval for the land use plan amendment will allow Baffinland Iron Mines Limited to proceed to environmental assessment.

Yours truly,

NWT & NUNAVUT CHAMBER OF MINES



Gary Vivian
President

cc The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations & Northern Affairs
 MP Hunter Tootoo, MP for Nunavut
 Premier Paul Quassa, Premier of Nunavut
 Honourable Elisapee Sheutiapik, Minister of Economic Development and Transportation and Minister of Mines
 Ms. Aluki Korteck, President of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
 Sharon Ehloak, Executive Director of the Nunavut Planning Commission
 Percy Kabloona, Commissioner of the Nunavut Planning Commission
 Peter Alareak, Commissioner of the Nunavut Planning Commission
 Ovide Alakanauruk, Commissioner of the Nunavut Planning Commission
 Gary Vivian, President of the NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines
 Dennis Patterson, Senator for Nunavut