

Tom is – in North America you work through lobbyists, who are law firms and you have relationships. I mean we can talk to the Chief of Staff of the White House any time we want.

You want to be careful with all this because it's all recorded. Every telephone call that the Chief of Staff to the White house has, has to be recorded. It's not that they tape the call,

it's just that it's recorded that 'He had a call with Tom Collier, the CEO of Pebble Limited Partnership'. You don't want to be seen to be trying to exercise undue influence.

It's better for us if we want to push that envelope that Tom talks to the Governor of the State of Alaska

and the Governor of the State of Alaska picks up the phone and calls the Chief of Staff to the White House, yes.

More government-to-government than necessarily ourselves, or lawyers talking to the lawyers in the White House.

The governor I count as a friend. I did in my home the largest private fundraiser for the governor when he was running for office and it's not unusual for the governor to call me.

I've flown down to Juneau which is about half the year where the governor is, he spends about half the year in Anchorage and half the year in Juneau.

I've flown down to Juneau where the governor's mansion is and had private dinners with him in the mansion. So the governor and I are pretty good friends

and like I said we talk on a regular basis. The governor's chief of staff, Ben Stevens, we about – god Ron how long ago was it?

– three or four years ago we formed what we called the Pebble Advisory Committee. We reached out to important politicians and environmentalists and native leaders in the state

and brought them in to a committee that would advise me personally on how best to go forward on this pebble project. And Ben Stevens was on our pebble advisory committee

before the governor got elected and he was requested by the governor to come in and be chief of staff. Now in a lot of states, frankly, chief of staff is more important than the governor.

The governor has to be out there playing politics and kissing babies, where the chief of staff is sitting at his desk running the state

government.

And that's a guy who was on the pebble advisory committee.

Sure, the State of Alaska is every bit as supportive if not more supportive of us as each day goes by. And that's for two reasons.

One is the State of Alaska is in a serious threatening fiscal crisis here. I don't know if you know much about how state government works in Alaska,

but Alaska is one of the very few states in America that does not have an income tax. So, the only way the government really raises money is off of the tax it imposes

on the oil and gas industry per barrel of oil essentially. And you know what's happened to the price of oil in the last year or so.

And that has had two impacts: first of all, it's reduced the tax because the price of oil has gone down so far. The second is it's reduced our production

because it's no longer as profitable to produce oil. So, we have deficits up here of billions of dollars and the state can't borrow money to cover its deficits, it's got to come up with it every year.

And so, we're looking at a potential bankruptcy of the state in just another couple of years here. And the only way to fill that gap, the state now believes, is essentially through mining revenue.

And we're the biggest game in town with respect to that so they're really supporting us because of their monetary needs.

Secondarily, every day that we get closer to getting our Record of Decision, it's easier politically for the government to be more vocal in its support.

They've always been supportive kind of behind the scenes but more vocal so this mitigation plan that we're putting together, almost all of the land is state land.

And so, the state has to be a partner with us. And what we're gonna do with that land is we're gonna turn it into a preserve. We're gonna set it aside, put a conservation easement on it

Investigator: Like a park? Like a big park?

Tom Collier: Similar to a park.

And that will be available for hunting and fishing only in the State

of Alaska. And we would not be able to respond positively to this letter we got today

if the state weren't there as our partner moving forward with this plan. And they are, ok? And just to put a fine, fine note on that, just between us guys,

I had a two-hour one-on-one meeting with the governor when all of this came up about a month ago to walk him through this, to get his commitment that they would be there

and now we're working with his department of natural resources and they are being very cooperative in working this through with us.