

Murkowski? Senator Murkowski. That lady from Alaska. Senator Murkowski.

Well she can't make a negative decision. Could she slow down the ROD? Potentially she could. Senator Lisa Murkowski, her father was the Governor of Alaska, back three governors ago.

He is the governor that accompanied Bob Dickinson and I to London to meet Rio, BHP, and Anglo to invite them into the project. And so Rio came in as a shareholder, Anglo came in as a partner. Senator Murkowski, she's very political. She in her heart wants the project to go ahead. She will say things that appeal to sometimes people's emotions but that won't do any damage to the project overall. So Senator Murkowski we feel good about. Senator Sullivan – so Murkowski isn't up for election. When a Senator is not up for election, they don't do anything. Alaska has two senators. Every state has two senators. They're appointed for six

Senator Murkowski, she's very political. She in her heart wants the project to go ahead. She will say things that appeal to sometimes people's emotions

but that won't do any damage to the project overall. So Senator Murkowski we feel good about. Senator Sullivan – so Murkowski isn't up for election.

When a Senator is not up for election, they don't do anything.

This year Senator Sullivan is up for, and he's not as prestigious or long-serving. I think Senator Murkowski has had, this is, she's in her third six-year appointment.

And Sullivan's going into his second and so he's got a battle on his hands and we're trying to work with him to make sure he doesn't go and say something negative like

– and he won't say 'Don't build the mine', but he might say 'Don't issue the ROD until after the election'.

Investigator: Oh my god. Can he do that?

He can say that, but would it have any impact? It depends on whether Trump feels he's going to lose. Sullivan's a Republican senator and is it important that he gets elected.

If he says 'Delay the ROD' will that help him get elected?

It's an age-old practice where when you have constituents, you have important people who support you on two sides of an issue, alright,

you try to find a way to satisfy them both.

You don't choose one or choose the other. You try to satisfy them both. The way that Senator Murkowski has done that is that when she's asked a question

she says things that don't sound supportive of pebble – but when it comes time to vote, when it comes time to do something, she never does anything to hurt Pebble, Ok?

Never. Alright? So let me give you a very specific example. So last year the House of Representatives, the national House of Representatives, Congress,

passed a what's called a rider to an appropriations bill. So a piece of legislation that would have prevented the federal government from funding the permitting process for Pebble.

It would have killed Pebble. Alright? It then goes to the United States Senate and the Senate has to consider this. The committee that it goes to is the committee that's chaired by Lisa Murkowski.

Ok? So Lisa Murkowski kills the bill. Right? It doesn't go anywhere. That's the end of it. No problem for us. Dead.

But in what's called the committee report, so this is something that's not voted on it's just a report that's issued by the committee at the time,

Lisa Murkowski says I've got some questions about this pebble project that I think need to be answered before it can move ahead. So she threw a bone to those constituents that are against us in the committee report but when it really mattered she didn't do anything. Ok? That's the way Lisa Murkowski is, and frankly that's the way a lot of senators and congressmen are in America is that they say things that satisfy one side of an issue but they don't do anything that would hurt the other side of the issue. And that's where Murkowski is. I: Wow, that's hard to understand but yea it is what it is. RT: It's called sitting on the fence. Don't get off on either side, just sitting on the fence.

So she threw a bone to those constituents that are against us in the committee report but when it really mattered she didn't do anything.

Well Lisa Murkowski is very unpredictable but she had some opportunities to kill this project if she wanted to and she didn't do it.

The most obvious one was the one I described to you when it was right

there before her. All she had to do was kind of close her eyes and let it go past. But she didn't. She stopped it.

And so Lisa Murkowski is Lisa Murkowski. That's what she does. Now having said that, she's also with this president the single most unpopular senator of the 100.

So the fact that Lisa is saying things that aren't positive is not bad for us with the Administration.

Yea so both senators, Senator Sullivan and Senator Murkowski, also – they didn't misread the press release –

they relied upon a story that was printed in the newspaper that didn't have a named source. In other words it was a rumor that was printed.

And the two senators jumped out and said that they had heard, based on this news story, that the project was being delayed by the Trump Administration,

and they jumped on that and said that from their perspective was not a bad thing.

They were wrong. They're now embarrassed. Since it's the political season they're still trying to figure out what the hell they're gonna do,

but an interesting sideline of that – and I wish I could have thought about this – but it's kind of frozen them. They haven't been able to say anything about Pebble

since then because if they come out and say something, they're gonna have to admit that they were wrong about what they did.

So right now they're just kind of sitting over in a corner and being quiet, ok?

And that's – if they stay there–

Ronald Thiessen: Perfect for permitting!

Tom Collier: If it's just – gosh, it couldn't be a better thing for us

because these guys they can't cause us a problem.

This is not a process that involves US senators. So we get to our ROD,

whatever their position is, but if they're not making bad news stories for us if they're quiet.

So right now it's not such a bad situation for us. They're both in a corner being quiet.

Well right now, he's off in a corner being quiet.
So I think that's our plan to work with him – is leave him alone and let him be quiet.

Investigator: Well that's a good policy. And you think that's–

And I mean it's not – we're talking – that's an exaggeration. We have a very close relationship with one of his top advisors who in fact – our – the guy who was my predecessor,

John Shively, rents an apartment in Alaska from his, from Sullivan's state director. And the two of them have worked together for 20 years so John knows her well and talks to her regularly.

And she's embarrassed that the senator got out there with the wrong message. But right now, John – who keeps informed with her, who keeps in touch with her –

has been told that he's just gonna be quiet. He's gonna try to ride out the election and remain quiet.