

John Ell-Tinashlu
Chairperson
Arviq HTO
Naujaat, Nunavut

The Canadian Transportation Agency
Secretariat
secretariat@otc-cta.gc.ca

April 16, 2025

Re: Baffinland's application to construct a railway from the Mary River Mine to Steensby Inlet

The Arviq Hunters and Trappers Association – a recognized Inuit organization under the Nunavut Agreement – have never been consulted on Baffinland's Mary River Mine. Our concerns and rights have not been heard or addressed, and we urge the Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) to deny the application to construct this railway as the impacts to our constitutionally protected rights to hunt will result in significant impacts to our way of life.

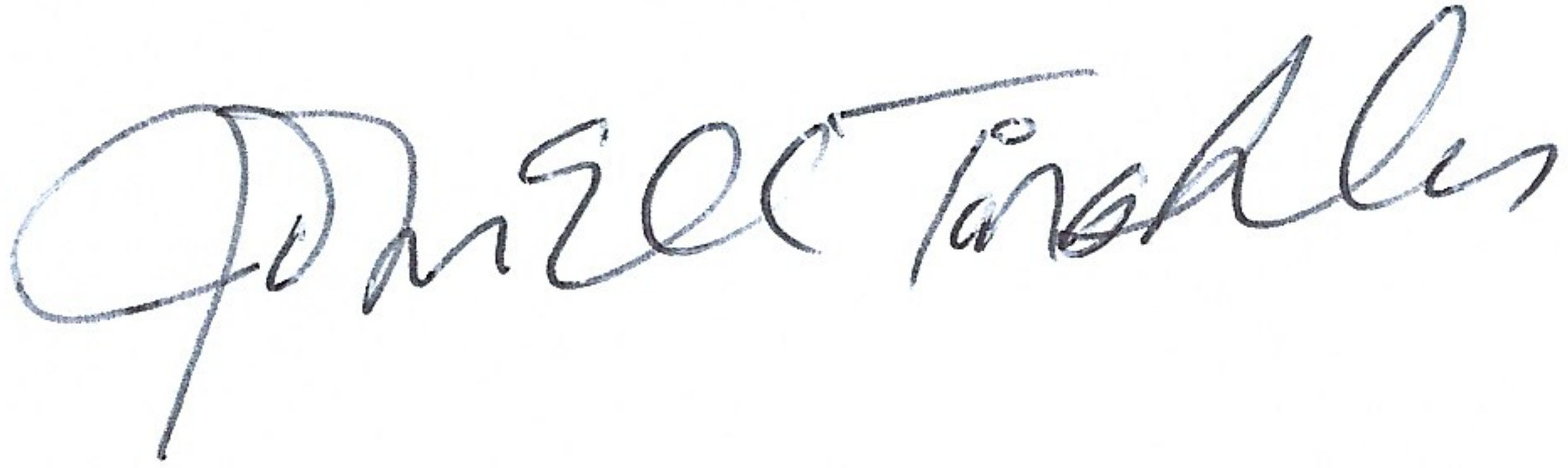
The construction of the railway will expand the impacts of Baffinland's mine into our region and drastically alter our way of life. Our community relies on marine wildlife for food, income, and the continuation of our cultural practices. This railway will force the marine wildlife that we rely on to share the waters with industrial ships that have been shown to negatively impact them. We have heard about these impacts from other areas of Nunavut where Baffinland is operating. These shipping activities will more than triple what has been experienced elsewhere on this project. We are very concerned as these ships will transit through our region to transport the ore carried by the railway. The railway application should be denied so our community's concerns can be addressed and so the effects of all these activities in our region can be assessed before construction takes place.

We are also concerned that the railway's impacts on Baffin Island caribou will put additional pressure on mainland caribou herds that our community relies on for food. The Baffin herd is already depleted and Inuit there are unable to harvest their share and now must travel to hunt on the mainland. We have hunted caribou for generations and they are very important to our way of life. The railway will destroy habitat, make it difficult for caribou to migrate, and reduce the chances of the Baffin herd to recover. These impacts will be felt by mainland caribou with any additional pressure that changes migratory or hunting practices directly impacting our community.

We have never had the opportunity to share our concerns about the impacts of Baffinland's project on our region. Therefore, we urgently call on the CTA to reject Baffinland's application to construct the railway so that a complete re-assessment of the project can take place and so that our community can have its say.

Thank you for providing us an opportunity to comment about our concerns. This is the first chance we've had to communicate the concerns we have about this project's impacts on our constitutionally protected rights and our community's way of life.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Ell-Tinashlu". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being the most prominent part.

John Ell-Tinashlu
Chair