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To: [donlingoldeis, POA](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Donlin Gold EIS comment
Date: Tuesday, May 31, 2016 9:58:26 AM

Please accept this comment in support of the proposed Donlin mine project and Alternative 2

Alaska is a resource dependant state; we have few manufacturing jobs, seasonal hospitality and fishing jobs, and a declining petrochemical industry. We have extremely stringent oversight and permitting rules, but successfully manage our resources and environmental quality better than any other state in the union. This highly managed resource development results in long-term benefits to Alaskan wildlife and local urban lifestyle; but has a tendency to keep rural development minimal, and jobs and benefits (like good schools and medical availability) unavailable to Alaskans outside of major cities. It stifles growth.

The Donlin Gold project as planned can provide well paying jobs in an area that is stagnant with very high unemployment and few opportunities for families to grow. The youth of the area must leave in order to find work. The skills learned locally in this project can be utilized in future developments in that area, and in the rest of the state. Mining can provide decades of wealth for individuals as well as the Native corporations and their shareholders--mostly in the Kuskokwim region but shared with others under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

I believe Donlin's plan will not only provide economic benefits, but can continue to protect the environment well past the initial construction phase and through the operational lifespan of the mine. The proposed pipeline in Alternative 2 is designed to minimize impacts on the Iditarod National Historic Trail; the line itself is of almost immeasurable value in increasing infrastructure into western Alaska. It's construct has been timed to have little impact on hunting or the annual dog sled races.

Up to 3,000 construction jobs in the first four years, and 600-1200 full time jobs can be created at a time where this state is heading into a recession and unemployment is growing. At the present mine life of 27.5 years, the benefits to the state are staggering. These opportunities will keep communities strong while maintaining local culture and families together.

All-in-all, I believe Donlin Gold's project shows a good understanding of Alaska's environmental issues and meets them with a strong, well grounded approach. The project can provide both prosperity for the area while protecting the environment and other resources.

Best regards,

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"It is better to be careful 100 times than to get killed once" - Mark Twain