



CALISTA CORPORATION
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April 26, 2016

Keith Gordon, Regulatory Division
Alaska District
CEPOA-RD-Gordon
P.O. Box 6898
JBER, AK 99506-0898

Dear Mr. Gordon:

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to comment on my support for the Donlin Gold Mine Project and Alternative 2 of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

My name is Margaret Pohjola originally from Chuathbaluk, where I grew up. Chuathbaluk is a village on the Kuskokwim River in Alaska 100 miles upstream from Bethel. Today, there're around 123 people who live there.

I grew up in a subsistence household where we put up fish during the summer. My dad went trapping in the winter and sold the pelts to help support our family. I completely understand the concern for protecting the rivers and streams of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Region.

However, I believe Donlin has a plan in place to respond to any spills that help relieve concerns for protecting our subsistence way of life. The project is also far enough away from Chuathbaluk that it will have no impact on our berry picking.

I serve as the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Calista Corporation, which owns the land where the gold mine will be developed. The shareholders of the Calista Corporation expect responsible development that will provide job opportunities in the region. In addition, the infrastructure associated with the project has the potential to help reduce the high cost of living in our region.

I believe Donlin has taken the steps necessary to ensure responsible resource development in the region that will bring opportunity and benefits to the people of the region and hope the project will be allowed to move forward.

Sincerely,

Margaret Pohjola
Chair of the Board