CALISTA CORPORATION
www.calistacorp.com

March 28, 2016

RE: Donlin Mine Draft EIS – Support of Alternative 2

To Whom It May Concern:

I am submitting comments regarding the Donlin Gold Mine Draft EIS that is open for public comment.

I have served as Calista Corporation's CFO since 2011. Before then, I was Corporate Tax Director for another ANC with revenues in excess of $1b per year. I am a CPA and earned a BA in Business Administration and an MBA with a triple major in Accounting, HR and International Business from the University of Washington. I have also served in highly regulated industries, finance, and the government sector for over 20 years.

Donlin represents an extraordinary opportunity for Calista to grow its revenues and profits above the royalties Calista receives from Donlin's operators and the opportunities to win projects in the region. The opportunity comes in the form of substantial federal and state tax savings that can be used for any of the following:

1) Fully fund an endowment, the inflation-proofed income of which will provide burial assistance and scholarships for Calista Shareholders in perpetuity
2) Purchase at least one new subsidiary business each year for fifty consecutive years
3) Greatly increase the size of the cash dividends paid to Calista Shareholders
4) Purchase significant income-producing real estate utilizing non-recourse debt and no cash down by leveraging the unique tax opportunities Donlin offers Calista.

By way of explanation, Calista and other Alaska Native Corporations are taxable corporations. This means that when they earn taxable income, they pay taxes to the U.S. government and to states in which they operate.

When Donlin becomes a productive mine, the value of the gold extracted from the ground becomes tax deductible as a depletion expense on Calista's state and federal tax returns. Because this tax deduction is enormous relative to Calista's size, Calista will stop paying federal income taxes for about 50 years. This will save Calista a conservative minimum of about $10 million per year for 50 years ($500 million). If the tax savings are used to purchase profitable businesses, the impact is far greater; pre-tax net income would be two to four times higher since Calista would be much bigger than it otherwise would be.

5015 Business Park Blvd., Suite 3000, Anchorage, AK 99503
t: (907) 275-2800 ★ f: (907) 275-2919

These savings and growth opportunities could not come at a more critical time for Calista and its owners. With job losses occurring at the North Slope, cuts in state operating and capital spending, and the potential loss of both the Permanent Fund dividend and Power Cost Equalization, Western Alaska is at risk of economic collapse.

Calista can help avert this catastrophe by using the unique tax advantages Donlin will provide to ensure higher dividends, scholarships and burial assistance. This literally means food on the table for families in Western Alaska.

For the reasons stated above, I strongly support Alternative 2.

I realize this topic is complex, therefore, I would be more than happy to address these issues in greater detail if requested.

Yours truly,

Sharon Lechner

Sharon Lechner CPA, MBA
CFO, Calista Corporation

5015 Business Park Blvd., Suite 3000, Anchorage, AK 99503
t: (907) 275-2800 ★ f: (907) 275-2919