

**From:** [Su Flanders](#)  
**To:** [donlingoldeis, POA](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Donlin Gold Draft EIS comment  
**Date:** Monday, May 02, 2016 1:25:57 PM  
**Attachments:** [20160502 R Hoffman ltr supporting EIS.pdf](#)

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Attached please find a letter from Robert Hoffman regarding the Donlin Gold draft EIS.

**Su Flanders | Corporate Paralegal**

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"22 CFR Part 125.4 (b) (9) applicable."



CALISTA CORPORATION  
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May 2, 2016

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

Dear Mr. Gordon,

I appreciate the opportunity to write a letter in support of the Donlin Gold Mining Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement. My name is Robert Joseph Hoffman from Bethel in the Calista region of Alaska. I retired from the military after 23 years and serve on the Calista Corporation's Board of Directors. Our region is home to two of Alaska's most famous rivers, the Yukon and the Kuskokwim, both isolated and remote and is home to our state's indigenous Yup'ik, Cup'ik and Athabascan people, Calista Shareholders.

There are no roads that connect our region to the rest of Alaska which requires goods to be flown or barged to each community and that makes the cost of living there very high. Add to the hardships of living there the problem that our young people have very few jobs available to them. They continue to have families as they should, but because there are no jobs, they're forced to live with their grandparents for support.

The Donlin Gold project will give them opportunities for jobs and a chance to raise their families on their own. The project will also give them an opportunity for education and to learn new skills such as work with heavy-duty equipment. I sincerely hope the project goes through and provides the opportunity for economic development in our region, jobs and money for our people.

I talk about "a Bible" for the project, which in my mind are the documents that require the steps necessary to ensure the project is safe and will protect our region's subsistence lifestyle. Shareholders understandably have concerns about the project, and the mine closure 50 to 100 years after the mine is completed. They want to make sure the right rules and regulations are continuously followed from the beginning to the end. From what I've learned of the project and the safety measures that have been put in place and are required for the project, "the Bible", it can work. I tell our shareholders that everything is as safe as possible.

Our people talk of subsistence, but I tell them without dollars we can't subsist. We need financial assistance to purchase gas, fuel, ammo, food and transportation to pursue our subsistence quests. The project will bring jobs and money to our region and can be done safely.

Sincerely,

Robert Hoffman