

April 21, 2016



US Army Corps of Engineers  
Alaska District  
CEPOA-RD-Gordon  
P.O. Box 6898  
JBER, AK 99506-0898

Re: Donlin Gold Draft Environmental Impact Statement

To Whom It May Concern:

Columbia Helicopters, Inc. is a privately owned and operated heavy lift helicopter company who has been involved in logging, construction and stream restoration projects in Alaska, primarily in the southeast region, for many years. We support **Alternative 2, Donlin Gold's proposed project**, believing it to solidly benefit and further develop and enhance the health of the economy of southwest Alaska for generations to follow.

Highlighted benefits of approval of this project will be improved transportation and communications infrastructure to support the mine, port and pipeline facilities, better services and lower cost of energy, goods, and services to local residents and businesses.

Over the last 10 years, more than \$480 million have been spent on exploration of the property, engineering and environmental studies, camp support, flight services, fuel and other supplies. Job skills and training received from this project will generate a stronger and broader workforce pool for generations to come, reaching beyond the life of this mining project. Over the 27 ½ estimated life of the project, 3,000 construction jobs for four of those years and between 600 to 1,200 jobs will have a significant and positive impact on the economy of the southwest region as well as the rippling effect throughout the state.

Additionally, employment opportunities, both directly and indirectly in areas such as logistics, transportation, training education and health care are anticipated.

Please consider approval of this well researched, environmentally and responsibly engineered draft proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Wise', is written over a faint background of a letterhead or form.

COLUMBIA HELICOPTERS, INC.

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Portland, OR 97208

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