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To: [donlingoldeis, POA](#)
Cc: [Josh and Danielle Craven](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Donlin Gold EIS Comment
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Attachments: [Donlin_EISComment_DCraven.docx](#)

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Danielle Rae (Dizon) Craven, Tanuk'aq (Yup'ik name), and I am from Bethel, a tribal member of Orutsararmiut Native Council, writing this letter concerning the Environmental Impact Survey and my ultimate decision to oppose the continuous development of the Donlin Gold Mine. I belong to the Calista corporation and am also a descendant of a Bethel Native Corporation shareholder, my mother, Barbara (Nick) Liu. The document that has been well put together raises fear, anxiety, and uncertainty concerning the risks of the waste, the hauling of fuel and waste, and the chemicals and toxins that will harm and effect the ecosystem.

I am 32 years old and have been raised in Anchorage, Nunapitchuk, and for the majority of my schooling and life, in Bethel. My mother is from the village of Nunapitchuk where many of my family members reside. We have a family fishcamp belonging to our late grandparents Nick O. and Elena Nick of Nunapitchuk, down river from Bethel near the villages of Oscarville and Napaskiak. My childhood summer memories all take place on the bank of the Kuskokwim River, known to many residents and river travelers as "Nick O. Nick's Camp" and our family continues to raise our children valuing the harvest of fish and what the land provides, respecting all animals, water, and beings that inhabit the land. The EIS document outlines many factors that will have an effect upon our river and people, that will have a lasting impact not only upon our summer traditions, but the survival and pursuit of happiness in many Alaska Native and multi-cultural families, such as my own.

The amount of waste that this mine will produce has insurmountable risks. On page 20 of the Executive Summary it states "An estimated 3 billion tons of waste rock would be excavated from the mine pit with 2.5 billion tons placed in the WRF and the remainder backfilled to the completed pit or used to construct the TSF." This is a massive amount of rock waste. The land is not worth the waste the mine is going to produce. It goes to add that 123 million tons of waste will be put into cells to reduce contact with water. In the history of rural development, I don't think any city or village in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta has ever had 123 millions tons of waste used for anything. Waste period, is what threatens the ecosystem and rivers.

The amount of river traffic that is going to be added and hauled up and down the Kuskokwim through Dutch Harbor and then on to Anchorage and Seattle has a negative affect on the routines and lifestyles of the people in this region. Many families reside in smaller rural communities, such as Aniak, Chuathbaluk, Stony River, Crooked Creek, down to Akiak, Tuluksak, and Akiachiak, and further down to Tuntutuliak and the coastal villages. The dependence on boats and fuel already has a current impact. Many families not only travel from village to fishcamp, but village to village, village to city, and as far away as village to Bristol Bay for various reasons. The number of round trips per season is not needed along the river. I don't want to avoid barges and have the cargo ships, pipe and equipment shipts, fuel

ships, interfering the daily lives. The biggest impact is on the fish that continue to arrive (though in smaller bundles with this year's King Salmon closures for the second year) and our depending on the fishing and subsistence. Families rely on fish. It is like rice to the Chinese, Potatoes to the Irish. 5,880 trips per season is not needed. It is not worth the annual operation and a 27 year gold mine. When I am 59 years old, and my children who are 5 and 3 now will be adults, we want to continue to care and participate in our valuable fishing and gathering lifestyle, uninterrupted by the effects Barack of this foreign companies gain for wealth.

Lastly, the chemicals and toxic effect of the natural gas pipeline and the waste rock facility has life threatening risks for disaster. The construction of the 315 foot gas pipeline is already having an effect on our environment, cutting down trees and and interrupting the the natural ecosystems. I had a chance to visit the Donlin Gold Mine in the summer of 2007 as a teacher-chaperone for Lower Kuskokwim School District students to visit the mine and learn about the jobs. Seeing a brown bear run across the mountain where the Donlin pit was one my most memorable memories. I had never seen a brown bear in real life. Then, one of the Donlin workers said, "That's where the mine will be, quite a shame isn't it?" I agreed. There is life around Donlin Creek and the land behind Crooked Creek, belonging to Calista and the Kuskokwim Corporation. It is a habitat. The pipeline, just like others all over the state of Alaska has failures. It will fail. The proposed Angyaruaq port is unnecessary. How can people control the safety of the many chemicals that will sit, particularly the 2,535 tons of cyanide? It will fail and the cyanide will kill fish, harm the waterfowl that land in the water streams and even the animals that drink and swim near these waters.

There are many other factors written and detailed in this document that continue question the ethic and purpose behind this proposal to move forward. The work behind this document is impressive and has communicated the most obvious to me, which is, do not allow this mine to move forward. I speak myself and my family, for all those who can't email, or haven't written a letter, who can't access the internet or navigate a website, those who can't even speak or are literate in English, who haven't listened during the meetings or even our City Council meetings, who want to voice, but are passive or don't know the means. I was talking briefly with my my Uncle Joseph Trim Nick, who is bilingual, and I asked how he felt about the mine, and he told me in his mother-tongue, Yup'ik, "Alingnarquq." He was the first of my immediate family members to voice his opinion. This translated in simple terms means, "It is very scary and creates fear." Please, make the most difficult decision and oppose the progress of this mine for benefit of the people, the ecosystem and our humanity. The documents makes the solution very clear; do not move forward for the purposes of wealth. Thank you for your detailed work and listening to my concerns.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
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