

## Smith, Neal

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**From:** STEVE DENTON <dcandm@mtaonline.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 22, 2016 2:44 PM  
**To:** donlingoldeis, POA  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Donlin Gold Project EIS

This message is submitted in support of the Donlin Creek EIS Alternative 2, the Applicant's proposed project.

Alaska is feeling significant strains to its economy as a result of the current slowdown and low prices in the oil industry. Given that oil revenues provide over 90% of the revenue to the State, it is imperative that our economy be diversified. No where is the impact of reduced oil revenue felt more acutely than in Alaska's rural communities, which are much more dependent upon State spending than larger urban communities. Mining provides a local source of good jobs and revenue for local governments. The Donlin Project will provide a significant boost to jobs and the local economies in a part of Alaska the needs it badly.

Barrick Gold has a long history of responsible mine development and Alaska's regulatory system is second to none for protection of our natural environment. The mine's footprint will be relatively small and it will yield enormous benefits. I urge you to complete the NEPA process as expeditiously as possible and select Alternative 2 as the preferred alternative.

Sincerely,  
Steve Denton  
PO Box 149  
Healy, Alaska 99743