

January 28, 2016

Testimony by Larry Houle [larryhoule@gmail.com](mailto:larryhoule@gmail.com)

**Re: Donlin Gold Project  
US Army Corps of Engineers Draft EIS  
Supporting Alternative #2**

My name is Larry Houle and I live in Anchorage. I am a 47-year resident of Alaska. After attending College in the Lower 48 my wife and I returned to Anchorage to live, work, and raise our family where my wife and I live to this day.

My testimony today is in support of the Donlin Gold Project; **Alternative #2.**

It is my belief that I offer a rather unique perspective on projects such as the Donlin Gold Project; in my early 20's while still a college student I was hired by the Late Senator Ted Stevens to work on Capitol Hill and specifically work on the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act legislation known as ANCSA.

**I am here today to state that the Donlin Gold Project is exactly what was envisioned by ANCSA.**

As a young Senate staffer I was present on Capitol Hill when the testimony was given.

I remember Alaska's Leaders both Native and non-Native espousing a VISION for projects like Red Dog Mine, Ambler Access and pipeline projects in addition to future Trans Alaska Pipeline systems.

I also recall that Alaska's Native peoples; through the land settlement act of ANCSA were to be allowed to responsibly develop their resources.

*Responsible development and maintenance of subsistence* values were primary tenants of the ANCSA.

Based on my study and knowledge of the development plan and careful attention to the Donlin Public Outreach campaign; I am confident that Donlin Gold will respect the subsistence and cultural values in the Region.

The employment opportunities and economic benefits provided by Donlin Gold will sustain the communities in the Y-K Delta region and fund traditional subsistence activities for decades.

In my review of the project it is clear that Donlin Gold has conducted very extensive studies to develop an environmentally and socially responsible gold mine project.

The overall footprint of the mine has been reduced to allow for safe management of water over the life of the mine and beyond mine reclamation.

The proposal to use the synthetic liner under the tailings impoundment is a prime example of a “best practice” of an environmentally responsible mine project.

Additionally, their proposed water treatment plant will ensure that water discharged from the site will meet or exceed water quality standards.

In summary I urge the Corps to support Alternative 2 for the Donlin Gold Project.