



January 28, 2016

Kurt Parkan, Marketing Director  
Donlin Gold  
4720 Business Park Blvd., Suite G-25  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

RE: Donlin Gold Mine

Dear Kurt:

On behalf of Iron Dog, Inc., Board of Directors, please accept this letter of strong support for the efforts of Donlin Gold to develop the gold mine in the Yukon Kuskokwim region. We recognize the development of the region would bring improvements to the residents of the area and the entire state of Alaska. While offering multiple positive outcomes, reducing negative consequences is of course very important.

The current proposed route outlined in Alternative 2 minimizes impacts to important regional features such as the Historical National Iditarod Trail and results in virtually no effects to the Iditarod Sled Dog Race. This plan considers timing sensitivity needed during construction to further reduce impacts to the dog race, and important hunting for the users of the region. During the summer and fall, dense vegetation practically eliminates visibility of the pipeline, and in the more sparse areas, the snow cover during the winter and early spring accomplishes the same result. Almost all of the pipeline, approximately 98%, is outside of the historic trail and less than 4% is within 1,000 feet.

We do not endorse Alternative 6A through Dalzell Gorge as it presents very specific dangers and dramatically increases negative impacts to the trail. Going through the gorge is much riskier than the proposed route and puts workers at greater risk of injury. We commend Donlin Gold for its forethought in choosing a safer route for both the building and future maintenance periods.

For the above reasons we support the pipeline route as proposed in the Draft EIS in Alternative 2.

Respectfully,

Marianne Beckham  
President

Cc: Kevin Kastner, Iron Dog Executive Director  
Iron Dog Board of Directors