



May 9, 2016

Mr. Keith Gordon, Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District
P.O. Box 6898
JBER, Alaska 99506-0898

Attn: CEPOA-RD-Gordon

Dear Mr. Gordon,

I live in Bethel, Alaska in the Yukon-Kuskokwim region where the Donlin Gold Mine project is located. As someone who worked at the project site from 2007-2012, first as a driller, then carpenter and finally maintenance supervisor, I can give a first-hand account of the culture of safety and social responsibility that exists there.

As supervisor it was my responsibility to ensure that every member of the team had safety first of mind. I had routine safety meetings with the crew and if issues arose, they would be addressed promptly. Crewmembers were also responsible for routine safety reports to document any issues. Because the focus on safety at the project is so prevalent, I feel certain the environment in our region will not suffer.

Furthermore, the company has gone to great lengths to listen and respond to the concerns of the people in the region. Donlin has made changes to the project to address concerns and has created work schedules that accommodate the subsistence culture here. The company treated me well when I worked there and because of that I would go back given the opportunity for another job.

Your approval of the project's Draft EIS could create more jobs for people in the region. That is hugely important because jobs are scarce and the Y-K Delta is one of the most expensive places in the state to live. We desperately need jobs. The Donlin Gold Project will be good for the people in this region, offering us jobs and a purpose while protecting our environment and our culture. Your approval is much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Bobby Japhet

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bobby Japhet".