

**From:** [Michael Jespersen](#)  
**To:** [donlingoldeis, POA](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Donlin Gold Project, Western Alaska  
**Date:** Monday, May 30, 2016 9:54:03 PM

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Mr. Gordon,

I'm writing in support of "Alternative 2" as written in the Environmental Impact Statement for the Donlin Gold LLC Project in Western Alaska.

Having lived in Bethel Alaska (one of the communities that will be directly impacted by the mine) I know first hand of the poverty, depression, daily struggles and people moving out of the region. All of these problems are directly affected by the lack of economic opportunity. If people had jobs, they would be able to provide for their families, continue living in their "Traditional" lands and maintain their "Subsistence" lifestyle.

The Donlin Gold Project developed via Alternative 2 will not only provide jobs it will reduce the cost of energy in Western Alaska. The proposed developers of the mine want to build a natural gas pipeline with capacity exceeding what they will need. Local communities along the pipeline route will be able to use the extra capacity to bring natural gas to a part of the country that has never had it. With energy flowing down a pipeline rather than being brought in by barge the cost of everything in the region will be reduced. Additionally, not as many fuel barges will travel from Washington to Western Alaska. Reduced barge traffic across the ocean and up the rivers of Western Alaska means a lower probability of a disaster at sea.

Alternative 2 reduces the amount of development along the "Iditarod National Historic Trail". Construction along this corridor will be sensitive to the annual Iditarod Dog Sled Race and substance hunting.

The Donlin Gold Project will provide significant tax revenue for local and State Government. The land and sub surface rights where the Proposed Donlin Mine will be located are owned by Regional and Village "Native Corporations" meaning revenue from the mine will flow to native groups throughout Alaska via ANCSA 7 (i) and 7 (j). This money is in addition to Tax revenue to government entities and wages paid to local workers.

The Donlin Mine if developed via Alternative 2 will provide jobs for hundreds / thousands of people over the 27 year production life of the mine. As I said above the land and sub surface mineral rights to the mine are owned by Alaska Native Companies. These companies are requiring Donlin to hire a high percentage of workers from the local area.

I reiterate I support the Donlin Gold Mine Project and the Alternative #2 developed by you and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Respectfully,  
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