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April 1, 2016

Mr. Don Kuhle, Regulatory Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 6898
Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, AK 99506-0898

Dear Mr. Kuhle,

I have served in many capacities on local, regional, statewide, national and international organizations that promote to protect the homelands and advance the economic, social and political integrity and opportunities for the Indigenous peoples from different parts of the world.

Alaska Natives, and those of us living in the Yukon/Kuskokwim delta, share many similarities with other Indigenous peoples in terms of our socio-economic, as well as political, disadvantages despite the rich cultural strengths each of us have in our homelands. Strides are being made albeit in a snail's pace, in my opinion.

I have traveled extensively within the Y/K delta villages and hear many concerns from the tribal peoples living in our villages. Many of our villages still live in the third world conditions (lack of running water and sewer in the homes), up to 85%+ unemployment (especially young adults), high cost of energy and transportation. We are also starting to see the out migration of young adults (our primary workforce) from their villages into urban areas. When opportunities exist for cash economy, people stay.

Donlin Gold, if it moves forward, will provide much needed infusion of cash economy to individuals, villages, the Y/K region, as well as the State of Alaska. In many of our village travels, many ask when the project will move forward and many are hopeful that this project becomes a reality.

Donlin Gold anticipates of upwards of 3,000 jobs to be created during the construction phase for three to four year infrastructure development of the mine site and associated development to support the mine. As it moves forward for the expected life mine of 27 year operation phase, 600 and 1,200 jobs will be created. These are the jobs people in the villages ask about.

In our village trips, we speak to the young people in the village schools about the Donlin Gold opportunities. These are the workforce that will make the mine operational. These types of opportunities will allow the young people to stay in their homelands and preserve our cultural integrity. With steady source of income, jobs will allow them to

pay for expenses that help support our subsistence way of life, such as hunting materials, transportation modes and fuel. Being able to provide for themselves and their families independently will give them a sense of purpose and internal fulfillment, ultimately improving the quality of life in their villages.

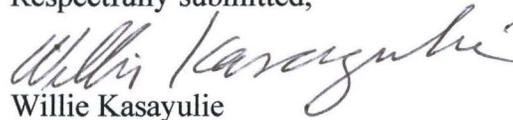
Ideas are being discussed how the region can benefit collectively to bring down the high cost of energy and transportation. We are in communication with our State legislators, as well as regional organizations that work for our people, how we can collectively seek solutions to better the lives of our people. Donlin Gold is many of one facets being discussed.

Donlin Gold will bring many opportunities to the Y/K delta region with their demonstrated commitment to local hire with a drug and alcohol-free work zone. Residents will have motivation to give up dangerous vices, which could lead to fewer drug and alcohol related deaths. With fewer deaths in the region, we could experience a brighter future for our communities tormented by tragedies, financial turmoil and broken dreams. The Donlin Gold project has the potential to be a beacon of light for our people.

The village residents are hopeful that this project moves forward. Our people are resilient, hard working, productive, responsible and caring people. How else can we have survived up to this era. Please allow our people the opportunity to prosper and thrive into the next generation.

I thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Donlin Gold mine project.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Willie Kasayulie".

Willie Kasayulie

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