

**From:** [donlingoldeis.POA](mailto:donlingoldeis.POA)  
**To:** [Craig\\_Bill](mailto:Craig_Bill)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Donlin Gold opinion  
**Date:** Thursday, February 25, 2016 6:52:46 AM

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-----Original Message-----

From: Zoey McCallson [[mailto:zoey\\_mccallson@lksd.org](mailto:zoey_mccallson@lksd.org)]  
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2016 9:50 AM  
To: donlingoldeis, POA <[POA.donlingoldeis@usace.army.mil](mailto:POA.donlingoldeis@usace.army.mil)>  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Donlin Gold opinion

Zoey McCallson

PO Box 2807

Bethel, AK 99559

907-545-3862

[Zoey\\_mccallson@lksd.org](mailto:Zoey_mccallson@lksd.org) <[mailto:Zoey\\_mccallson@lksd.org](mailto:Zoey_mccallson@lksd.org)>

February 17, 2016

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Blockedwww.poa.usace.army.mil <Blockedhttp://www.poa.usace.army.mil/>

Keith Gordon, Project Manager

[Keith.Q.Gordon@usace.army.mil](mailto:Keith.Q.Gordon@usace.army.mil) <<mailto:Keith.Q.Gordon@usace.army.mil>>

907-753-5710

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Zoey McCallson and I was born and raised in Bethel Alaska, and here's my viewpoint on the Donlin Gold mine.

The most prized possession to a native is their fish; their fish is there gold. Donlin Gold, a mining company, claims they're doing a good thing because they will supply jobs for 3,000 people. There are already 10,000 fishing jobs in the Bristol Bay area, many of whom are locals. If the mine kills the fish 10,000 people will lose their jobs. This will leave many people without money or food; mining in this area is a terrible idea. I don't support the development of the Donlin Gold mine because it risks environmental pollution, the endangerment of species, and the loss of native traditions.

The mine will cause severe environmental damage to our land. Because the minerals desired are so small, large amounts of ore will be needed to be mined by digging up the land. Much of the ground that will be dug up will be contaminated, if the tailings had even a minor deficiency in its storage it can spread through the groundwater and contaminate the land and water. This would be tragic for many of our families who survive off of the land. Donlin Gold claims that this is safe and that they will close the mine after 25 years and let things grow back naturally. What they didn't tell us is the contamination will remain active for decades or even centuries after the mine closes.

All the pollution endangers the species that many locals survive off of for subsistence. Tom Quinn, a wildlife professor of the University of Washington, states that contamination in small concentrations is dangerous to salmon. Their senses are weakened leaving them vulnerable, and large amounts of contamination will kill them. He also explained that the water from the stream would need to be taken out, leaving the spawning stream dry. Without a spawning stream we'll have no salmon, I can't imagine a summer without the smell of smoked fish and a freezer full of food for the winter. Salmon are the food source for bears, eagles, whales and much more, the mine will end up killing all of the wildlife.

Animals are also the food source for many native Alaskans and locals, without them many valuable native traditions will be lost. Peter Andrew, a native Alaskan resident, says that losing animals and berries will affect the way of life. They live off of a cycle of fishing, then picking berries, and lastly hunting and repeating the cycle. We wouldn't be who we are today without our yearly traditions of hunting, fishing, and gathering. Mining in the Bristol Bay and Donlin Gold area will affect a sustainable economy for many residents. They depend on natural recourses; their livelihood is at stake.

The development of the Donlin Gold mine risks environmental pollution, the endangerment of species, and the loss of native traditions. Money and gold is worthless compared to fish and other natural recourses. Having money for a short period of time isn't worth losing subsistence and traditions forever.

Sincerely,

Zoey McCallson