

From: [Lila Moto](#)
To: [donlingoldejs, POA](#)
Cc: [Lance Miller](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Donlin Support Letter
Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2016 3:43:55 PM
Attachments: [April 2016 NRC Donlin.pdf](#)

Hi Mr. Gordon:

Attached is the Donlin support letter from Wayne Westlake, President/CEO of NANA Regional Corporation.

I am available for questions via email or at 907.442.8123.



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April 19, 2016

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

RE: Comments for the Donlin Gold Project EIS

Dear Mr. Gordon:

At NANA Regional Corporation (NANA), our mission is to improve the quality of life for our more than 13,800 Iñupiat shareholders by maximizing economic growth, protecting and enhancing our lands, and promoting healthy communities with decisions, and behaviors guided by our Iñupiat Illitquisiat, our traditional value system.

In many ways, the Inupiat have always been Arctic developers, using what we could to survive in the harsh and unforgiving land. We live innovatively; creating tools and mechanisms for survival.

After the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, NANA applied these same principles of innovation to the business world. This can best be seen in the creation and continued operational success of the Red Dog Mine. For twenty-seven years, Red Dog, one of the world's largest zinc mines, has stood as a model of responsible resource development, founded on the principles of consensus, cooperation, and mutual respect between a mining company and the Iñupiat people of Northwest Alaska.

To date, NANA Regional Corporation has received more than \$1.3 billion in revenue from the mine, of which approximately >\$820 million of which has been shared with other Alaska Native corporations across the state through the 7(i) sharing provisions of ANCSA. The Red Dog Mine is an economic engine for the NANA region and the rest of Alaska. Residents of Northwest Alaska, the Mat-Su Valley, Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau and other areas of the state benefit from Red Dog operations through high-paying mining jobs, corporate dividends, social and cultural programs and charitable contributions. In addition, the Northwest Arctic Borough, the region's home-rule government, has received more than \$156 million as payment in lieu of taxes since Red Dog production began.

Clearly, Red Dog has had a tremendous economic impact on the region and the State and the life of the mine is expected to continue to operate into 2031. After nearly 30 years of enjoying the benefits that have come with the development of the Red Dog Mine, NANA strongly supports the continuation of the Donlin Gold Project EIS. This project has the potential to create substantial opportunities in a region of Alaska faced by devastating social and economic challenges by families and communities.

If developed, Donlin would bring significant job opportunities to the Southwest region and throughout Alaska, as well as the development of infrastructure such as power generation plant, water treatment plant, access roads, housing, two ports, a natural gas pipeline and an airstrip, which would allow for local businesses to supply services and materials to the operation.

The development of the Donlin Gold Project would contribute to a stronger and more diverse Alaska economy, while positively impacting all Alaska Native Corporations in Alaska through the ANCSA 7(i) revenue sharing.

NANA believes that the EIS reflects the socioeconomic impact that the development of the Donlin project would bring. Finally, NANA supports and encourages the Corps to permit Alternative 2, the Applicant's Proposed Action.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Wayne Westlake
President/CEO