

**From:** [Jason Alward](#)  
**To:** [donlingoldeis, POA](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 24, 2016 11:37:45 AM  
**Attachments:** [Public Comment Donlin Gold.pdf](#)

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Thank you for the ability to give public comment on this project.

Sincerely,

Jason Alward  
Anchorage, Alaska

Dear Sirs,

Thank you for the opportunity to make public comment on the Donlin Gold project.

My name is Jason Alward and I am with the Operating Engineers, Local 302 and it is our pleasure to support this proposed project.

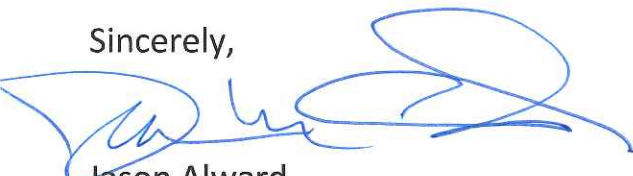
The Donlin Gold Project is projected to produce gold for nearly 30 years. In doing so, it is estimated that nearly 3000 jobs will be created during construction over the first 4 years and 600-1200 jobs will be created over the rest of the mines existence. These will be good paying jobs for people that will develop life-long skills which will enable them to continue living in the region and prosper. This is also a region where few other good opportunities exist. Not only will this project have a significantly positive impact on the economy of the region, but also for the entire state.

It is imperative that the process for Donlin's project keeps moving forward, as the project is vital in supporting the communities of the YK region and also for the entire State during a much needed time of portfolio diversification. The state of Alaska cannot continue to be reliant on oil for 90% of its budget. In addition to a much needed economic boost, this project could help facilitate some basic infrastructure for other critical possibilities in the future. Some of these benefits could be energy relief costs to Western Alaska residents and roads to future resource extraction.

I believe the state has an excellent partner with an exceptional track record in mining willing to move this project forward. Donlin, through the DNR and the EIS process, can be successful on this project. This process can continue to meet the challenges that address environmental, wildlife, and human health concerns. I am also confident that this project can be performed responsibly and the financial benefits to the people in the region and statewide economic benefits clearly outweigh the negatives.

In closing, for all the above stated reasons I strongly encourage continued support for this project. In addition, we also need to make sure this project is done with Alaskan's and Alaska Contractors.

Sincerely,



Jason Alward

Operating Engineers, Local 302

Anchorage, AK 99503

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