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January 27, 2016

Testimony for Donlin Gold before the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

I wish to testify in favor of Donlin Gold's application to undertake mining operations in the Yukon-Kuskokwim region. I am familiar with several aspects of their work, aspects that point to responsible development.

First, on the human front, Donlin is committed to hiring local people in an area of Alaska that is sorely in need of work opportunities.

Related, Donlin has made huge efforts to involve the local community in the project from its very beginnings. This has taken the form of uncounted trips to villages in the area and meetings in both English and Yup'ik, as well as training for company personnel in the Anchorage office on the cultures of the people who will be most affected by the mine.

Additionally, Donlin management is very aware of the importance of subsistence and, as far as I can tell, is making painstaking plans both to accommodate future workers' subsistence schedules and to ensure that the resources themselves remain healthy and numerous.

Second, on the environmental front, Donlin's plans, as far as I can tell, are environmentally sound in terms of containment of byproducts and the production process itself. A huge amount of planning has gone into the project. They are not trying to rush it through, but seem to be willing to take the time to ensure its benefits to company shareholders, workers, and local residents.

Finally, I have seen literature from the company which demonstrates its willingness to be transparent about plans and progress. This is a project that can withstand public and professional scrutiny.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia H. Partnow".