

From: [Marce Simeon](#)
To: [donlingoldeis, POA](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Donlin Gold Draft EIS comment
Date: Wednesday, April 13, 2016 4:09:23 PM

Army Corps of Engineers,

My name is Marce Simeon and I am a shareholder of The Kuskokwim Corporation and Calista Corporation. I was born and raised in the Kuskokwim region, living in both Crooked Creek and Aniak until I graduated in 1998. I am a tribal member of Crooked Creek and a board member of The Kuskokwim Corporation (since 2006), currently serving as vice-chair.

I currently reside in the Copper River Region and have not lived on the Kuskokwim since 1998 but most of my family still does. I visit Aniak usually on an annual basis and sometime more often. Even though I may not reside there, my heart lives there and always will. That is my home.

Now that you know a little bit who I am, I wanted to share why I am in support the Donlin Gold project. We are a region that is economically deficient and have high rates of both unemployment and poverty. The opportunity to work within the region is something that is desirable for many residents. Jobs alone are not the reason I support mining or this project specifically.

I believe that there are responsible ways to develop and extract natural resources. We have come a long way and many regulations, laws, and requirements encourage the safe and environmentally friendly ways for resource development. The draft EIS examines many different scenarios in which something may go wrong. This is important to know but to put into prospective. Just because there may be a multitude of things that can happen does not mean it will or to the maximum effect described. Fear is something that usually causes reaction; predominantly negative reactions.

So how do we move forward without fear? We play an active role in what is going on in our region. TKC (The Kuskokwim Corporation) has been invited and had a seat at the table with many of these environmental decisions. We are encouraged to talk about environmentally sound mining strategy, alternatives that are less impactful on the surroundings, as well as long term reclamation plans. This doesn't seem to be the position of a company (Donlin Gold) that is not committed to working with the people and finding the best solution to mine responsibly.

Donlin currently employs many hard working and intelligent people that continue to be a voice and presence in our region. Many of them are shareholders. They are committed to having their own personnel be an accurate representation of the communities in our region. I do not think that these individuals love the Kuskokwim any less than I do. I certainly don't think that these individuals would have a job that actively destroys the place they call home.

There are risks and will continue to be things we need to be mindful about to be sure that we are taking the best path. Based on the agreements in place, we will always have a seat at that table and be involved with the decisions that effect our lands, river, and wildlife. If responsible development were not possible this would not even be a discussion for our board of directors or our shareholders.

I wanted to end by saying that as a Copper River resident for the last 14 years I have been able to observe first hand how resource development can play a great role in long term viability. Here we have had decades of mining from the Nebesna (upper Copper River region) all the way down to the mouth of the river with resource extraction that included copper, gold, and other minerals. We have the pipeline running through our back yard. Yet people and wildlife continue to live here and thrive here. We boast having world renowned fishing, hunting, and untouched scenery. I point this out because it is possible to have a balance between development and subsistence.

I appreciate you taking the time to hear my comments. Please note that these comments are solely for the purpose of public comment to the Army Corps of Engineers on the draft EIS for the Donlin Gold project. They may not be taken out of context or used for any other purposes with my permission.

Thank you for your time and dedication.

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