



April 25, 2016

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Alaska District
CEPOA-RD-Gordon
PO Box 6898
JBER, AK 99506-0898

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my support for Alternative 2, the Donlin Gold Project.

Donlin Gold has a proven record of commitment to the people of the Yukon Kuskokwim (YK) Region. The economic potential it has for the local communities is destined to have a grossly positive impact to a region that is currently experiencing one of the highest unemployment rates in the state. With Donlin Golds commitment to local hiring, young and future generations have much to look forward to, including: well-paying jobs in a variety of career fields, educational opportunities, and economic stability that will be broadly felt throughout southwest Alaska.

Donlin Gold has also demonstrated a notable commitment to the environment. Donlin has 16+ years of extensive studies focused on creating an environmentally and socially responsible project; and has purposefully designed its project to reduce the overall footprint of the mine and diminish any social impacts it may have on the YK region. Proposals such as building a natural gas pipeline have been developed in an effort to minimize barge traffic on the Kuskokwim River. Furthermore, a specific route for the pipeline has been selected to minimize disturbance to known historic landmarks such as the Iditarod Trail. It is worth noting that the Iditarod Trail was originally created and used for the purpose of the Gold Rush in 1910. While we certainly want to preserve the beauty of our Alaska heritage, let us not forget how that history was created.

Lastly, I think it's worth noting that this region of land and its resources belong to the shareholders of Calista and The Kuskokwim Corporation. This area in particular was specifically selected during the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) due to its rich mineral content and the economic potential it would provide for its shareholders and descendants. ANCSA understands the importance of heritage and a subsistence lifestyle, but also recognizes the potential for achieving unity and managing the land for both modern and traditional uses.

Again, I am writing to express my support for Alternative 2, the Donlin Gold Project.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Benjamin Birch".

Benjamin Birch
Taiga Mining Company, Inc.
Anchorage, Alaska
(907) 301-4797