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AK REGULATORY

April 21, 2016

US Army Corps of Engineers
Alaska District
CEPOA-RD-Gordon
P.O. Box 6898
JBER, AK 99506-0898

Re: Donlin Gold Draft Environmental Impact Statement

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a current resident of Alaska who has been involved in logging, construction and stream restoration projects primarily in the southeast region of Alaska, for about 25 years. I strongly support **Alternative 2, Donlin Gold's proposed project**, and consider it to be a tremendous benefit for the local community as well as for the health of the economy beyond southwest Alaska.

Benefits from the approval of this project will be the improvement of transportation and communications infrastructure to support the mine, port and pipeline facilities, better services and lower cost of energy, goods, and services to local residents and businesses.

More than $480 million have been spent on exploration of the property, engineering and environmental studies, camp support, flight services, fuel and other supplies over the last ten years. Job skills and training received from this project will generate skilled laborers to train and educate following generations to build a strong workforce, reaching beyond the life of this mining project. Over the 27 ½ estimated life of the project, 3,000 construction jobs for four of those years and between 600 to 1,200 jobs will have a significant and positive impact on the economy of the southwest region as well as the rippling effect throughout the state.

Employment opportunities, both directly and indirectly in areas such as logistics, transportation, training, education and health care are anticipated developments of this project.

Please consider approval of this well researched, environmentally and responsibly engineered draft proposal.

Sincerely,

Bert Burkhart
7284 North Tongass Hwy
Ketchikan, AK 99901