

May 31, 2016

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Keith Gordon, Project Manager  
US Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District  
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Dear Mr. Gordon,

I support the development of the Donlin Gold mine and encourage alternative 2 as the option to proceed with the project.

I have been working at Donlin Gold for the past five years. Prior to accepting a position with the company I was initially hesitant because my mindset was focused on the past mining processes and the horror stories I had heard of throughout my life time. I accepted the position after having done my own research and realized the practices of the past were just that, practices of the past. Under today's regulations the protection of the environment is first and foremost.

Having been raised in the Kuskokwim river communities of Napakiak and Bethel, Alaska I have always known and realized that the area I grew up in, the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta, was the most poverty stricken area of the state, if not all of the United States.

After graduating from the Bethel Regional High School it was always my goal to attain a college degree and come back to the region to work for my people, the Yup'ik people. As I was growing up I had heard from a number of the native leaders of the region that we the younger generation of the region should go on to college because, "you are the next generation of leaders that will be taking our positions of leadership". I still hear those words of encouragement being preached to today's youth yet those same leaders are still in those same positions today and only a few of today's college graduates are filling those positions which are mainly in the community of Bethel because the positions one can have in a small village are limited because there are no jobs in the 50-plus villages of southwest Alaska.

I am hopeful that with the development of the Donlin Gold we can employ the YK Delta's unemployed who have had to migrate out of the region to seek employment elsewhere. It will be a good opportunity for those of the region who like living a "subsistence lifestyle" and can practice that lifestyle on their off-time, working a convenient swing shift that the mine will have. The income that they earn at Donlin Gold will afford them to better practice that lifestyle by allowing them to purchase boats, snowmobiles, atv's, nets, guns and ammunition that is required of for today's subsistence hunters and gatherers.

I think an elder in the community of Nunapitchuk put it best when he stated, "the creator has provided us with the resources that are at Donlin Creek, if it wasn't for our benefit it would not have been placed there for our use. We just have to develop it in a responsible manner so it does not hurt the

environment." He went on to say that we hear a lot about subsistence and how the Donlin Gold mine might detrimentally affect our subsistence activities, yet today we need cash to practice subsistence. The mine will allow for better subsistence activities by providing them the jobs that are scarce in this region by providing the people with employment so they can purchase all the needed boats, motors, guns, etc. to go and subsist. "People now-a-days talk about subsistence, yet if they were given a kayak, a bow and arrow or set snares and subsisted like we used to do, and doing away with store purchased food; they will starve to death. Today's people need a cash economy and I think the Donlin Gold mine can provide for that needed cash."

Please consider Donlin Gold's alternative 2 in order for them to proceed with the project.

Quyana,



Vernon Chimegalrea