From: <u>Chris Hamre</u>
To: <u>donlingoldeis, POA</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on the Dolin Gold Project

**Date:** Saturday, May 21, 2016 8:32:47 PM

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Denali General Contractors has operated in the lower Kuskokwim area since 1992 and has successfully completed 25 public projects in this region valued in excess of \$50 million. We support the proposed Donlin Gold mine project for a number of reasons.

- > The job skills and training for workers in the mine will create a workforce that will be able to better provide a future in a traditionally economically depressed region.
- > 3,000 construction jobs and over 600 jobs for the life of the mine, will have a significant and positive impact on the economy of the region and the state.
- Improved transportation and communications infrastructure to support the mine, including port and pipeline facilities, can provide better services and lower cost of energy, goods and services to local residents.
- ➤ In addition to direct employment and contracting opportunities associated with Donlin Gold, many indirect business opportunities are anticipated in areas such as logistics, transportation, training, education and health care.
- > The jobs and the economic stimulus provided by Donlin Gold would help sustain communities in the YK region and fund traditional subsistence activities.
- ➤ New, high-paying jobs will allow more residents to remain in the YK region and finance the purchase of supplies needed to maintain their traditional way of life for generations to come.
- ➤ With a local hire record of up to 90% at their camp during exploration, Donlin Gold has proven their commitment to hiring local residents.
- > The proposed natural gas pipeline will have excess capacity should there be an interest in accessing natural gas to address the energy needs of the YKI region.
- > The Donlin Gold project was designed to reduce the overall footprint of the mine and allow for safe management of water.
- > The natural gas pipeline proposal will result in reducing the amount of diesel barges on the Kuskokwim River.
- > Donlin Gold will use a synthetic liner underneath it's entire tailings impoundment.
- > A dry closure of the tailings storage facility at the end of the mine's life is a "best practice" Donlin Gold is proposing to ensure an environmentally responsible mining project.
- ➤ Donlin Gold will construct an active water treatment plant to ensure that water that is discharged from the site is treated to meet water quality standards.
- > TKC and Calista support development of their natural resources for the benefit of the people of the region.
- > This economic opportunity for shareholders and descendants is precisely the purpose behind Congress' grant of entitlement of these lands to Calista and TKC.
- > The ANCSA corporations recognize the importance of subsistence lifestyle and the possibility of achieving unity and managing the land for both modern and traditional uses.

Please accept our strong support for this great opportunity for our region.

Thank you:

Chris Hamre, President



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