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Mr. Keith Gordon, Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District
CEPOA-RD-Gordon, P.O. Box 6898
JBER, AK 99506-0898

RE: Donlin Gold Project, Draft EIS

Dear Mr. Gordon:

I wish to record my support for the Donlin Gold Project as proposed in Alternative 2 in the November 2015 DRAFT EIS for this project.

The Donlin Gold Project has the potential to make a signature impact on the socio-economics of the Kuskokwim region of Alaska the benefits of which far exceed any potential impact and/or threat to the extant natural environment of this region or proposed transportation corridors.

The Project is located within a geographic region of Alaska that may be characterized as one of few opportunities for employment, particularly for well-paying jobs, high energy costs and very limited to no tax base to support education and local infrastructure. Alternative 2 in the DEIS identifies the positive economic impact of the proposed project and these metrics are greatly reinforced with a comparison to those real numbers from the Red Dog Mine in northwest Alaska.

Like the Donlin Project, Red Dog is located in a remote area of Alaska where the pre-mine economy of the region was very similar to that of the Kuskokwim Region. The Red Dog Mine is owned by NANA Regional Corporation, an ANCSA Corporation, and operated by Teck Alaska. NANA receives a production royalty, payments for use of the surface and a priority in contracting opportunities. Production commenced in 1990 and since that time NANA has received >\$1 billion in production royalty payments of which approximately 70% has been shared with the other ANCSA corporations and their shareholders. The mine provides approximately 600 year-round jobs at an average annual wage in excess of \$100,000. NANA shareholders make up 57% of the mines total workforce. Payments to the Northwest Arctic Borough in support of education and

general revenues exceed \$11M per year. The mine has greatly transformed the economics of the NANA region and one should conclude that the Donlin Project will have a similar if not greater positive economic impact upon the Calista Region.

I strongly recommend that the Corps advance Alternative 2 as the preferred alternative for the final EIS.

Sincerely,



CPG, PG-AK