



**LABORERS' INTERNATIONAL
UNION OF NORTH AMERICA
LOCAL 341**

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January 28, 2016

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

RE: Laborers' Local 341's favorable support for the Donlin Gold project

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of Laborers' Local 341 and its more than 2,200 members, I write in support of the Donlin Gold project.

The land and resources belong to the shareholders of The Kuskokwim Corporation (TKC) and Calista. During the Alaska Natives Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), Calista selected the mineral rights at Donlin Gold, and TKC selected the surface estate so their shareholders would benefit from the development and production of the mine. This economic opportunity for shareholders and descendants is precisely the purpose behind Congress' grant of entitlement of these lands to Calista and TKC. Furthermore, it is TKC's and Calista's right and duty to support development of their natural resources for the benefit of the people of the region.

During this uncertain economic times that Alaska is facing, a project like this would provide a significant and positive impact in the region and throughout the State. Approximately 3,000 jobs during the four years of construction would be created and between 600-1,200 jobs for the remaining 27.5 years of the mine would be to support the project. These are direct employment numbers, many additional indirect business opportunities are anticipated in areas such as logistics, transportation, training, education and healthcare.

Donlin Gold has conducted extensive studies to develop an environmentally and socially responsible gold mine project. The natural gas pipeline proposal is a result of conversations with the region about reducing the amount of diesel barges on the Kuskokwim River. The use of natural gas for power generation, instead of diesel, will also reduce air emissions.

I hope you consider the benefits for the State and the royalties paid to statewide Alaska Native corporations with the Donlin project and approve it moving forward.

Sincerely,

A.J. "Joey" Merrick II
Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
Laborers' Local 341

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