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Subject: Donlin Gold EIS
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To: Mr. Don Kuhle, Regulatory Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

I am writing to comment on the Donlin Gold Environmental Impact Statement scoping.

I believe it goes without saying that this project will have great economic benefits to the region, state and to the nation. Also, the State Department of Natural Resources has shown repeatedly that it can enforce stringent regulations overseeing mining activities statewide that effectively protect the environment, wildlife and human health.

Regarding human health, the positive benefits of this project on people's health should be considered in your assessment. This project will employ hundreds of people at much higher than average wages with good health insurance plans. This is not just my opinion; it is a fact of the Alaska mining industry. This project is in a remote area with high unemployment. This project will enable people to gain job skills and remain in their home town/village with a higher than average standard of living. It also helps keep families together without being forced to disperse in search of work. In addition, there is a large psychological boost to individuals employed in such a project. They are developing skills, doing a hard day's work and being well rewarded for it. It can have a great effect upon their self esteem. The Red Dog mine is one such example of all of these benefits.

I am a former Ketchikan resident who worked for Ketchikan Pulp Company. Any resident of Ketchikan who has been there very long will tell you that building the pulpmill there was one of the best things (i.e. projects) that ever happened to their formerly seasonal economy. The mill provided good wages and health benefits in association with the year round skilled hourly and salaried jobs. Unfortunately, political pressure to stop harvesting trees in the Tongass National Forest forced the demise of the mill after 40 years of operation. But what a great 40 years of prosperity it was!

The word "job" is small, but not having one is a big thing. The Donlin Gold project will have a great positive effect on people's health by providing good jobs.

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