



# YUKON-KUSKOKWIM HEALTH CORPORATION

**"Working Together to Achieve Excellent Health"**

March 29, 2012

Don Kuhle, Regulatory Division  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 6898  
Joint Base Elmendorf, Richardson, AK 99506

**Re: Donlin Gold LLC Environmental Impact Statement**

Dear Mr. Kuhle,

The Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC) serves the needs of the approximately 25,000 Native Alaskan and Native American residents of the 58 federally recognized tribes/villages in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region of Alaska. The Donlin Gold project is located in the YKHC service area, approximately 134 air miles from Bethel, near the community of Crooked Creek.

The social and economic benefits of this project to the region will emerge with employment opportunities and increase Native incentive to obtain further education that lead to income cumulatively year round. I believe it is most appropriate, at this stage, to support the Donlin project because it will assist families across Alaska struggling to make ends meet while facing the loss of their jobs, their home and their savings. Economists tell us that the recession is officially over, but it doesn't feel like it for the hundreds of rural Alaskans looking for work.

YKHC, as a Native Corporation, successful from investments made at both regional and local levels, has created major changes, which have resulted in growth in the state and local public services. These changes overall have had a positive impact in the YKHC mission "Working Together to Achieve Excellent Health".

I, as an interested party, with a vested interest in the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation and the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta region, support scoping, so that all issues and benefits can be identified and reviewed during the Environmental Impact process that promotes long-term economic growth.

Sincerely,

**Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation**

Gene Peltola, President/CEO