



# Fairbanks North Star Borough

Mayor's Office

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**\*\*TRANSMITTED VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL\*\***

March 14, 2019

House Resources Committee  
ATTN: Co-Chair, Rep. John Lincoln  
Co-Chair, Rep. Geran Tarr  
Alaska State Capitol Building  
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Rep. Lincoln and Rep. Tarr,

I would like to offer my support for the confirmation of DEC Commissioner-Designee Jason Brune.

The FNSB has a close working relationship and partnership with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to address multiple issues regarding the environmental protection and health of our community. Specifically, the FNSB has challenges in meeting air quality attainment standards for fine particulates (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) and groundwater contamination plumes from perfluorinated compounds (PF). Since Mr. Brune's appointment in December 2018, he has repeatedly met with myself and other borough officials who are working to address these issues. It is clear that Mr. Brune has taken the time to understand the complicated nature of these challenges and the potential consequences of the various options moving forward.

Mr. Brune comes from a background working for resource industries and understands the challenges and opportunities for better partnership between the State of Alaska and industry. While working for Cook Inlet Region Inc., Mr. Brune worked to identify priorities for addressing contaminated lands and has the expertise needed to identify and address the many contaminated sites throughout Alaska and the Borough.

I understand there has been opposition to Mr. Brune's appointment, centered on his previous roles with the Alaska Resource Development Council and the Pebble Mine project; however, my experience with Mr. Brune has been very encouraging. I look forward to continue working with him as the Borough works in partnership with the state to address these issues.

Sincerely,

Bryce J. Ward  
Mayor

cc: Sen. John Coghill  
Sen. Click Bishop  
Sen. Scott Kawasaki

Rep. Steve Thompson  
Rep. Tammie Wilson  
Rep. Dave Talerico

Rep. Adam Wool  
Rep. Bart LeBon  
Rep. Grier Hopkins