

From: Glenn Ruckhaus

Sent: Friday, March 8, 2019 10:18 AM

To: Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. John Lincoln <Rep.John.Lincoln@akleg.gov>; Rep. Grier Hopkins <Rep.Grier.Hopkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Hannan <Rep.Sara.Hannan@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Rasmussen <Rep.Sara.Rasmussen@akleg.gov>

Cc: Sen. Chris Birch <Sen.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>

Subject: Jason Brune Confirmation Support

Dear House Resource Committee:

I am pleased to submit this email in support of Jason Brune as the nominee for Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. Normally, I do not submit written endorsements as I prefer the process to move forward based solely on the candidate's record and their own testimony before the selection committee. However, in this case I am motivated by what I believe is misguided opposition by a vocal group to a qualified and competent candidate - misguided because the vocal opposition automatically assumes that Jason will bias policy and decisions in favor of former employers and colleagues.

Alaska has a small, close-knit, professional community, and associations with industry or non-governmental organizations are almost impossible to avoid and still earn a living. If we use the logic that a candidate's past professional associations will dictate their decisions as a state regulator and affect their eligibility for this type of role, the list of qualified Alaska candidates allowed to fill these positions, including most of the members of this resource committee, would be very short. The incumbent ADEC Commissioner Larry Hartig, who I regard as the best commissioner that has ever served the State, comes from the same ilk as Jason. Larry was an attorney with Hartig-Rhodes, whose clients included many oil and gas and mining clients. Larry had to make many policy and regulatory decisions during his tenure, and I am confident you will find his leadership and decisions were based solely on a thorough analysis of science and facts, a process that Jason will surely follow.

There are other examples of regulators with associations with non-governmental environmental organizations who have served the State well. During the permitting of Alpine Satellites that I was involved with; the Director of the Division of Habitat and Restoration, Department of Fish and Game was concurrently President of the Alaska Chapter of the Sierra Club. If we had assumed, incorrectly, that the Director's affiliation with Sierra Club would influence his permitting decisions, he would have been in gross violation of professional ethics. Yet, the director was able to separate his affiliations outside of his employment to make decisions and recommendations based on facts and science, and as far as I know no complaints were ever filed. These are two examples of how true professionals separate their personal and professional interests to fulfill their State responsibilities with the highest professional standards for the best interest of the State of Alaska.

Glenn Ruckhaus | President

Owl Ridge Natural Resource Consultants, Inc.