

March 13, 2019

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the House Resource Committee,

I am writing to ask you to vote "no" on the appointment of Governor Dunleavy's pick, Jason Brune, to the Department of Environmental Conservation. The appointment of a longtime mining-company employee and industry advocate to an oversight position over critical mine permitting would diminish public trust in the integrity, and honesty of our permitting system. We do not need, and we do not want, the former public face of Pebble Mine to be Commissioner of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

The Department of Environmental Conservation has a critical mission to protect human health and the environment when large projects like the Pebble Mine are in permitting. It would be naive to think Mr. Brune could execute that mission impartially, given his public record. As the head of Public Relations for Pebble's former partner, Anglo-American, and as a personal advocate for the project, Mr. Brune's bias has been made clear. According to his testimony before the Senate Resource Committee, had Anglo American not withdrawn from the Pebble project, he would have continued his employment as their public affairs and government relations manager, "Anglo American pulled out of the project and took my job with them."

It would be expedient for Mr. Brune to say or imply that his priority as Commissioner would be protecting the environment, in order to secure confirmation. His personal ethic to "think globally, develop locally" is distinctly pro-development - a deeply concerning position for a potential leader of the department responsible for "Conserving, improving, and protecting Alaska's natural resources and environment..." The director we need will approve and allow sustainable development, while prioritizing our treasured self-renewing resources like the Bristol Bay salmon harvest.

Jason Brune's appointment may fall short of a personal conflict of interest, but it is nonetheless inappropriate. I am particularly concerned he may fast-track Pebble permitting, allowing development without adequate, *perpetual* safeguards to ensure that the vibrant Bristol Bay watershed thrives for all time.

It is my sincere hope that, when you have the opportunity to vote, you will vote no. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Clayton Bronnee