



Ninilchik Traditional Council

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RE: Jason Brune DEC Commissioner Confirmation Support

Dear Honorable Senator or Representative:

The Ninilchik Traditional Council (NTC), governing body of the federally recognized Ninilchik Village Tribe, respectfully submits this letter of support, fully endorsing Mr. Jason Brune and his confirmation as Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). As you are aware, and among many other positive accolades, Mr. Brune served for many years as the senior director of land and resources at Cook Inlet Region Inc. (CIRI). It was during this time that we had the pleasure of working together on various projects and endeavors, and in close partnership with our Village Corporation- Ninilchik Native Association, Inc. (NNAI).

We always found Mr. Brune to be pragmatic, professional and positive in his work, equally balancing development opportunities with potential environmental and social impacts. The tribe was able to work with partners such as CIRI in completing fish habitat enhancement projects through culvert replacements, managing subsistence moose harvest programs on their lands, and implementing agreements such as a camp for our youth on CIRI property. Mr. Brune has also strived to establish priorities for addressing contaminated lands. In addition, he has served on important boards and organizations that are meaningful to the tribes and villages, such as the Cook Inlet Beluga Whale Endangered Species Act (ESA) Recovery Team and the Tyonek Tribal Conservation District Board. The Ninilchik Village Tribe wholeheartedly and fully supports his confirmation as DEC Commissioner. We can think of nobody who is more qualified or appropriate to serve in this capacity. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ivan Z. Encelewski
Executive Director