

Good afternoon Chair Tarr, Chair Lincoln, Committee of Resources,  
My name is Alyssa Quintyne from Fairbanks, Dist. 1, and I'm testifying to urge this committee to oppose the appointment of Jason Brune to Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation, as I do not feel that Mr. Brune is fit for this position due of his long history and favoritism with Resource Extraction and Oil and Gas Industries.

In all honesty, this is another blatantly obvious ploy to allow the Dunleavy administration to appoint people who are contrary to the agencies they would be overseeing as a means to negate the integrity and capacity of these agencies, and to justify irresponsible, extractive, privatized outsourcing and policy. We're seeing these types of appointment all across vital state agencies; Anti-Cannabis, Hemp, and Prohibitionist appointees to the Marijuana and Alcohol Board, Racist and Sexist Anti-Public Education appointees to the UA Board of Regents, Pro-extractive, pro-fossil fuel industry PAC funding, 11 year Executive Director of the Resources Development Council, Board Member of the Alaska Miners Association, 3 year Pebble Mine spokesman appointee to the the Department of Environmental Conservation.

The name of this Department is literally Environmental Conservation, can we see the irony?

The Commission of DEC needs to be a fair and neutral appointee who has a history of environmental, labour, tribal, and communal advocacy and expertise. This appointee needs to be someone who the Villages and their Leaders, the State, businesses, project managers, and constituents can trust to fairly and rigorously vet, research, approve, and supervise these permits in a responsible manner. And we need to trust that this appointee will stand up and defend our communities when these projects are carried out irresponsibly. How are we going to advocate for our communities when projects like Pebble Mine, Ambler, Dolin, projects that have all been rejected by our communities across the state, and by Federal Agencies who question the measures and resources necessary to carry these projects out, when our Commission cannot be trusted to permit these projects fairly? What precedent is this going to set for DEC in the future as the State is moving forward to transitioning workforces and industries to more renewable and sustainable alternatives? How will our labors, engineers, scientists, and surveyors have a seat at the table when this DEC is working contrary to their own purpose? How will DEC report to the legislature when the Commission is willing to lie on the Senate floor about his priorities and positions? What will his mean for project managers and companies looking to start projects on their own and need factual and competent guidance on where and how to start these projects responsibly? Where will our communities turn to when there is a violation or emergency? How will Jason Brune do that, when his record proves that he is more interested in advocating for the oil companies than the State and the people he would serve?

Mr.Brune simply does not have that history of expertize or neutrality. Alaskans deserve better than that. DEC deserve better than that. This state deserve better than that. So I urge this Committee to stand with us and oppose this appointment. Thank you.