

From: Michael Jespersen

Sent: Friday, March 15, 2019 11:36 AM

To: Rep. John Lincoln <Rep.John.Lincoln@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@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: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>

Subject: DEC Commissioner

House Resources Committee,

I am writing to let you know of my support for Jason Brune to become the DEC Commissioner for the State of Alaska.

I first met Jason 7 or 8 years ago. At the time he was working with the Resource Development Council. Having recently learned of the RDC's existence I was skeptical of its mission and was looking into it. Jason invited me to attend some RDC meetings, introduced me to several members and board members as well as pointed out several hundred pages of testimony and positions put forward by the RDC. I soon learned that the RDC is one of the few if not the only organization in Alaska that successfully brings together the Fishing, Tourism, Mining, Forestry, and Oil and Gas industries along with many Native Corporations to promote Responsible Resource development. Not all development but responsible development.

Jason Brune in particular looks at science based research and facts when evaluating projects. I have not seen him be swayed by emotional arguments from either side on environmental issues. Time and again I have heard Jason say a project should not be built if it can not scientifically meet the legal burden put in place by regulations. I believe this stance to have cost him friendships and possibly financial rewards. Nevertheless he stands by his stated beliefs because they follow the law, they are morally correct and they help insure the environment will be passed to my children (and his) in the best condition possible.

If confirmed as Commissioner of DEC Jason Brune will follow the law, he will follow science and if there is a gray area between the two I believe he will ask the Legislature to craft law to eliminate the gray.

I do not say this of many people, it is a statement I do not take lightly because it reflects on my personal integrity but I Trust Jason Brue to Follow The Law as DEC COMMISSIONER, I Trust him to do what is right for Alaska and the Environment my children will inherit.

I can think of no better person to fill the role of DEC Commissioner at this point in Alaska's history.

I have copied Representative Andy Josephson on this message as he is my Representative.

Respectfully

Michael Jespersen

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