From: Larry Rundquist <
Sent: Saturday, March 9, 2019 2:01 PM
To: Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>
Subject: Vote NO on Jason Brune for DEC Commissioner

Dear Representative Tarr,
I am writing to encourage you to vote no on Jason Brune's nomination to be Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Jason Brune is simply the wrong person for this job. He has spent his career advocating for mines. He was the executive director of the Resource Development Council for eleven years. He was literally the spokesman for the Pebble Mine when Anglo-American was running the project. He was on the board of the Alaska Miners Association, and he ran a PAC funded by mining companies. He is not merely unqualified for this position; he has spent his career actively disqualifying himself from it.

There is nothing wrong with advocating for resource development. There are even jobs in state government oriented in that direction. Maybe Jason Brune would be well-suited for one of them. But this is not one of those jobs.

The DEC is responsible for protecting Alaska's clean water and the pristine fisheries on which so many of us depend. It is directly responsible for issuing permits to mines. The Commissioner has a responsibility to the Department's statutory mandate, and Mr. Brune has demonstrated time and again he does not believe in that mission. He believes in building mines at all costs, and that is fundamentally incompatible with what the DEC exists to do.

Mr. Brune has spent most of his adult life collecting paychecks from mining companies and crafting their slogans. It is reasonable to believe that when he leaves state government he will go back to doing that. It raises important questions about what he will do in between. He has a massive financial incentive to serve his former and future employers instead of doing the people's business. We are entitled to expect better from our public servants.

In his testimony before the Senate Resources Committee, Mr. Brune gave us a preview of what to expect if he is confirmed. When asked how he could be expected to be a fair arbiter of permits for the Pebble Mine, he said he has not made up his mind yet. That's preposterous. He has spent close to two decades loudly advocating for Pebble. He has posted pro-Pebble messages to his personal social media accounts. That goes far beyond simply doing his job as a spokesman. If that is the level of candor he brings to an open hearing in front of the body that has the power to reject his nomination, what can we expect behind closed doors?

Jason Brune is the wrong person for this job and I again encourage you to vote against his confirmation.

Sincerely,