

## **Commissioner Brune Letters of Opposition – April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019**

1. Andrew Worhatch
2. Jeremiah Gardner
3. Claudia Anderson
4. Josh Best
5. Virginia Evens
6. Joan Franz
7. Gina Friccero
8. Brian Himelbloom
9. Nancy Hillstrand
10. Barbara Reilly
11. Donald McNamara & Donna Faulkner, Oceanside Farms
12. Heather Forbes
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14. Patricia Cox
15. Kathryn Carsson
16. Julie Hursey
17. Mary Sharp
18. Marilyn Menish-Meucci
19. Linda Swiss
20. Michelle Weekly
21. Oceana Wills
22. Bill Kare
23. Anelise Zimmer
24. Chloe Ivanoff
25. Barbara Rondine
26. Kalsin Clark
27. Garrett McCarthy
28. Sarah Braund
29. Janis Klug
30. Beth Rosenberg
31. David Somerville

# PETERSBURG LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: [lio.petersburg@akleg.gov](mailto:lio.petersburg@akleg.gov)  
907-772-3741/ phone/ 907-772-3779/fax

## WRITTEN TESTIMONY

**YOUR FULL NAME:**

**REPRESENTING (ORGANIZATION OR SELF):**

**BILL #:**  **Subject**

**COMMITTEE NAME:**  **HEARING DATE:**

Jason Brune is not a responsible choice for Alaska's DEC Commissioner due to a conflict of interest. The social needs of South Western Alaska should not be subject to the economic benefit of large-scale open pit mining. Jason Brune was a spokesperson for the Pebble Project and is closely tied to mining companies.

Alaska's US Senators have expressed their concerns about the brief 90-day comment period to deaf ears. The local population is alarmed. Alaskans have a legitimate complaint concerning this fast-tracked plan to develop a potentially ecologically devastating mine Project.

Hello -

My name is Jeremiah Gardner, and I grew up in Bristol Bay, in King Salmon to be exact. My father, Michael Gardner, was a Department of Environmental Conservation officer stationed there. In fact, he was the most senior officer the department had before his retirement.

Alaska, and Alaskans, depend on salmon. Since I was a little boy our lives have revolved around salmon and the industry. You simply don't need to be a fisherman to feel the effects that a good or bad season has. It trickles to the furthest reaches of our local and rural economies. As an adult, I own a bike shop in Kodiak and my business is directly driven by a good salmon season; if the fleet comes home with money, they toss it all over town.

Bristol Bay is an extremely pristine place, it's no wonder that it's home to one of, if not the biggest red salmon runs in the world. To even consider anything that could have an adverse effect on such a remarkable, insular environment is laughable.

You simply cannot believe that a man like Jason Brune, with his long list of acclaim from the mining and oil industries could possibly be an impartial and sound judge or an advocate for environmental conservation. This is a terrible terrible idea. Under no circumstances should anyone with such a clear conflict of interest be allowed anywhere near this office.

Alaska's environment is not for sale. We don't want people destroying our land or habitat. Please do not confirm Jason Brune. The only answer for Alaska is a sustainable future and I believe that starts with being proper stewards of the land. This man clearly does not and thusly he is not fit to be affiliated with the Department, nor any State of Alaska agency.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

--

-Jeremiah Gardner

Kodiak AK, 99615

**From:** [claudia](#)  
**To:** [House Resources](#)  
**Subject:** Jason Brune  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 26, 2019 8:48:28 PM

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Dear Committee Members,

DO NOT confirm Jason Brune as Commissioner of DEC.

Alaska has many healthy and well managed renewable and nonrenewable industries. I realize the attached post is 5 years old, but a man this one-sided should work as a lobbyist for his industry. He could not be balanced and fair commissioner for all of Alaska.

Claudia Anderson



Kodiak, AK 99615

**From:** [Thatcher Brouwer](#)  
**To:** [House Resources](#)  
**Subject:** FW: You got a message "Jason Brune hearing"  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 27, 2019 9:41:42 AM

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Thatcher Brouwer  
House Resources Committee Aide  
Representative Geran Tarr  
907-465-6007

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**From:** Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 27, 2019 8:48 AM  
**To:** Josh Best <joshua.r.best@gmail.com>; Thatcher Brouwer <Thatcher.Brouwer@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: You got a message "Jason Brune hearing"

Hey Josh - Thanks so much for writing in. I'm sorry about losing you on two different occasions. I had called your name a couple of times at this last meeting, but we had lost you by then. There's no perfect way to do this and we hoped by having multiple hearings we be able to get as much public testimony as possible. Again, I'm sorry that that still did not accommodate you. Thank you for trying! It's my favorite part of the job because I learn so much and love hearing from Alaskans.

With that said, thank you so much for these comments. I will make sure they are included in the public record and shared with committee members.

Best,  
Geran

On Mar 27, 2019, at 8:20 AM, [AKHOUSE.ORG](#) <[akhouse@akhouse.org](mailto:akhouse@akhouse.org)> wrote:

**From:** Josh Best  
**Subject:** Jason Brune hearing

Message Body:  
Good morning Representative Tarr,

First, I want to thank you for all of your work for our community. I tried to call in to testify at the Brune hearing, but was too far down the list to speak at the first hearing, then something came up and I was not able to stay on the line for my turn at the second hearing. I'd like to present my talking points and I would really appreciate if you could forward them to the rest of the confirmation committee.

– [ ] Thank you for hearing me today. I am testifying in strong opposition to the nomination of Jason Brune as the Commissioner of DEC.

- [ ] I see this nomination as a blatant disregard for the entire purpose of this department. It is called the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. He is passionate about mining. Mining is the polar opposite of environmental conservation.
- [ ] I am very concerned that his nomination was intended to make it easier for mining companies to get permits, when what we really need is to be diligent about protecting our water and our salmon. I am especially concerned about his enthusiasm for the highly unpopular Pebble mine. The people of Alaska have spoken time and time again in opposition to this project. We do not want the Pebble mine. We will not allow Pebble to destroy Bristol Bay. We value our water and our salmon more than any of the potential mineral resources that he wants to extract.
- [ ] There is no way he would be a fair or neutral decision maker. He is far too invested in the mining community to ever give equal consideration to the conservation perspective.
- [ ] If he intends to approach this job with honesty, integrity and transparency, he simply won't be able to do the job. Because every time a mining company applies for a permit, he will have to declare his extreme conflict of interest and recuse himself from the process. Please find someone who can be responsible and fair and who will approach the position with the priority of environmental conservation.
- [ ] If any of the members of this committee are considering voting to confirm him, you should at a minimum require that he recuse himself from the permitting processes for any of the projects that he has advocated in support of, either as an employee or Board member. And you should require him to fully and publicly disclose all of those projects so that you, and more importantly us, the public, can understand the breadth of his potential conflicts of interest.

Thank you very much again for all of your efforts. Take care!

-Josh Best  
Anchorage

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This e-mail was sent from Representative GERAN TARR's legislative website

# PETERSBURG LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: lio.petersburg@akleg.gov  
907-772-3741/ phone/ 907-772-3779/fax

## WRITTEN TESTIMONY

**YOUR FULL NAME:**

**REPRESENTING (ORGANIZATION OR SELF):**

**BILL #:**  **Subject**

**COMMITTEE NAME:**  **HEARING DATE:**

I oppose the confirmation of J Brune to Commissioner of DEC.

**From:** [joanbf Franz@gmail.com](mailto:joanbf Franz@gmail.com)  
**To:** [House Resources](#)  
**Subject:** No on Nominee Jason Brune for DEC Commissioner  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 27, 2019 10:50:18 AM

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide an opinion.

Dear legislators,

Jason Brune is the wrong person for the DEC commissioner position. His past history and recent comments make this absolutely clear. His previous ties to mining interests and expressed opinions about Pebble Mine are a clear bias toward permitting this Mine without any consideration of the thorough EPA study that found it too risky to the water in this area. Even with the present scaled down plans, this fragile watershed must not be threatened. We need a commissioner who is unbiased and open minded about all mining. Their first priority and commitment must always be to protect our land, air and water. Of resource development will not pose an environmental threat then following an environmental impact statement supporting this must be completed by the EPA. If considered safe then permitting with oversight can happen.

At a recent breakfast with the Resource Development Council, Jason Brune made his priorities clear. "Look through the regs that oversee your businesses. if there are things that you see in there that are onerous, that are unnecessary to protect the environment, come and tell me, tell our team. ....what we can do to help make Alaska open for business." This statement does not suggest an open balanced view. Alaska needs a different person as commissioner of DEC.

Please vote NO on Jason Brune. He is biased and will not put the protection of the environment first.

Joan Franz  
[REDACTED]  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Gina Peru Friccero](#)  
**To:** [House Resources](#)  
**Subject:** Jason Brune  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 26, 2019 10:13:54 AM

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This is the guy who is going to represent us in a fair way with mining process? This is a travesty! This person is obviously ignorant beyond any ability to make fair and impartial decisions. Sincerely, Gina Peru Friccero

**From:** [Brian H](#)  
**To:** [House Resources](#)  
**Cc:** [Rep. Louise Stutes](#)  
**Subject:** opposition to Mr. J. Brune for ADEC Commissioner  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 27, 2019 1:25:51 PM

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Dear Representatives serving on the House Resources Committee,

I strongly oppose the confirmation of Mr. Jason Brune for ADEC Commissioner. He was Executive Director of Resource Development Council (RDC), which on its website lists fishing last behind oil & gas, mining, forestry, and tourism. Moreover, none of the six RDC officers represent the fishing resource, only 2 of 16 members on the RDC executive committee represent the fishing industry, and a paltry 2 of 52 (or 4%) of the RDC Board of Directors have fishing development interests. It sits well that the proposed Pebble Mine project would be championed by the RDC and Mr. Brune over the renewable, economic natural resource of sockeye salmon returning to the headwaters of Bristol Bay and spawning the next generation. It would not take much of a mining and/or tailings lake disaster for this treasured resource to be decimated along with economically crippling impacts throughout the established wild Alaska salmon industry.

It is clear that if Mr. Brune becomes ADEC Commissioner, he would have an immediate conflict-of-interest in the permitting process for the Pebble Project. Either he would have to recuse himself from any decision-making regarding necessary permits for the Pebble Mine or the ADEC may find itself embroiled in litigation. His qualifications and background are much better suited for the DNR Division of Mining, Land & Water. Please vote down his confirmation and look for a non-biased person worthy to lead the mission of ADEC in "[\*Conserving, improving, and protecting Alaska's natural resources and environment to enhance the health, safety, economic, and social well-being of Alaskans.\*](#)"

Thank you for your service,

Brian Himelbloom



Kodiak, AK 99615

32-year resident of Kodiak Island and consumer of wild Alaska salmon

Please enter into the record my  
**WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

TO:

Committee: HOUSE RESOURCES

Date of Hearing: MARCH 15<sup>th</sup> 2019

RE:

Bill #/Subject: JASON BRUNIE DGL  
NOT CONFIRMED

I OPPOSE CONFIRMATION OF JASON BRUNIE IN THE CRITICAL POSITION OF COMMISSIONER OF DECONSERVATION. THE WORD CONSERVATION IN ARTICLE VIII SECTION 2 GENERAL AUTHORITY IS SIDE BY SIDE AS ONE OF THE MANDATED TRIPLETS OF THE CONSTITUTION UTILIZATION, DEVELOPMENT, CONSERVATION. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, THE THIRD LEG OF THE MANDATED STOOL IS TO ENSURE AND PROTECT ALL NATURAL RESOURCES INCLUDING LANDS AND WATERS BELONGING TO THE PEOPLE ARE FOR THE MAXIMUM BENEFIT OF ITS PEOPLE.

CRITICAL ATTENTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION IS CRUCIAL IN EVERY SINGLE ISSUE OF ALASKA FOR ALASKANS

DECEMBER REQUIRES STRONG LEADERSHIP WITH PROFESSIONAL BIAS FOR CONSERVATION NOT CONFLICT OF ~~FROM~~ INTEREST.

Signed:

Printed Name:

Representing:

NANCY HILLSTRAND  
PIONEER ALASKAN FISHERIES  
ALASKAN CORPORATION SINCE 1964

Please enter into the record my  
**WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

TO:

Committee: Commissioner of DEC

Date of Hearing: 3/15/19

RE:

Bill #/Subject: Confirmation of Jason Brune

- ① Strongly oppose the confirmation of Jason Brune to be Commissioner of the Dept. of DEC
- ② Unacceptable due to conflict of interest, his bias and unqualified due to his life time history. He is more interested ~~and~~ in money and power than the conservation, protection and preservation of Alaska natural resources.
- ③ Not a question of "If" Polls would fail but "When".
- ④ Red Dog mine is a toxics waste pit.
- ⑤ Alaskans ~~have~~ have said "NO" to Polls Mine for years. Why? How much longer? "NO"!
- ⑥ Abandoned wells on North Slope on BLM land sit there and pollute. Alaska is being sold out to oil & gas mining corporations.
- ⑦ Don't make the mistakes in Alaska that were made Outside.
- ⑧ M.S. in Marine Science, San Francisco State U.
- ⑨ M.S. in Environmental Science, School of Engineering UAA
- ⑩ NO on Jason Brune

FROM:

Signed:

Barbara Reilly

Printed Name:

Barbara Reilly

Representing:

self

Please enter into the record my  
**WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

TO: Committee: House Resources Committee  
Date of Hearing: 3/15/19  
RE: Bill #/Subject: nomination of Jason Brune

Thank you chairman Tarr + committee

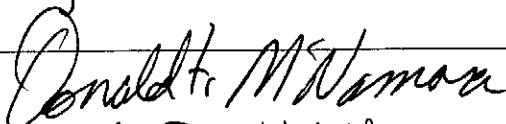
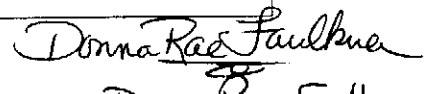
We are Alaskan Farmers who oppose this  
horrifying nomination + what would be the  
disrespectful appointment of Jason Brune.

We are indeed <sup>biased</sup> against the Pebble Mine.  
We are biased toward regenerative farming,  
environmental stewardship + the health + safety of  
Alaskans.

It would be like putting  
Willie Nelson in charge of marijuana regulation...  
Willie would be laughing right now.  
We are not laughing about this in Homer.

Jason Brune is not a non-biased environmental steward.  
This impacts generations to come. Say "no" Now.  
Please listen to the opposition testimony.  
Review Alana Hurley's Dillingham comments.

FROM:

   
Signed: Mr. Donald McNamara + Mrs. Donna Rae Faulkner

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Representing: Oceanside Farms

Please enter into the record my  
**WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

TO: Committee: House Representatives Committee  
Date of Hearing: 3-15-19  
RE: Bill #/Subject: Nomination of Jason Brune

I strongly whole heartingly oppose the nomination of Jason Brune!!! While his integrity, experience, skills may ~~be~~ seem appropriate for this job, he has a very strong conflict of interest for this position. The fact that we have spent time hearing these testimonies, speaks volumes to the reason why we should be looking onto someone else for this position. Please speak for the majority of Alaskans and oppose this nomination of Jason Brune. Thanks for your time.

FROM:

Signed:

Printed Name:

Representing:

Heather Forbes  
Heather Forbes  
myself

*Please enter into the record my*  
**WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

TO:

Committee: House Resources Committee

Date of Hearing: March 15, 2016

RE:

Bill #/Subject: Jason Brune's nomination as head of DEC

I oppose Jason Brune's nomination to head up DEC, as an Alaskan and as a shareholder,

I have stock in 5 iron ore mining companies.

In February (last month) 2 of the 5 had tailings dam failures. That's a 40% failure rate in a month!

The Pebble mine plan calls for a 700 foot tailings dam. This dam would be one of the world's ten tallest dams if it was 100 foot taller (and all those are concrete arch dams).

This dam must keep all ponded water from leaking in perpetuity. That's a long word. I don't know who's going to keep this dam from leaking in 40 years or 400 years. - neither does Pebble. And that's a small part of perpetuity.

I'm not worried about catastrophic failure taking villages out, although I have the blood of 165 Brazilians on my hands. I'm worried about the insidious leaks that will be genocide for the Yupik people and their way of life

FROM:

Signed:



Printed Name:

ROBERT GORDON VERNON

Representing:

myself

Please enter into the record my  
**WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

TO:

Committee: House Resources

Date of Hearing: 8/15/2019

RE:

Bill #/Subject: Jason Brune Confirmation

I oppose Jason Brune as DEC Commissioner.  
I believe he has a conflict of interest  
particularly with his history with  
Anglo American. As elected officials,  
you have the public's trust in making  
decisions that impact Alaska Citizens.  
I am concerned that Mr. Brune  
will not consider the opinions  
and concerns of Alaskans.

FROM:

Signed:

Patricia Cue

Printed Name:

PATRICIA CUE

Representing:

Self

Please enter into the record my  
**WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

TO:

Committee: House Resources

Date of Hearing: 3/15/2019

RE:

Bill #/Subject: DEC Commissioner

Senator Ted Stevens said that Pebble is  
"the wrong mine in the wrong place."  
Jason Brane is the wrong person  
for DEC commissioner.  
Please vote "no" on this appointment.

I am a 40 year resident of Alaska  
living in Homer, AK. I am a retired  
community and natural resources  
planner.

FROM:

Signed:

K Carson

Printed Name: Kathryn Carssow

Representing: Self

# PETERSBURG LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: lio.petersburg@akleg.gov  
907-772-3741/ phone/ 907-772-3779/fax

## WRITTEN TESTIMONY

**YOUR FULL NAME:**

**REPRESENTING (ORGANIZATION OR SELF):**

**BILL #:**  **Subject**

**COMMITTEE NAME:**  **HEARING DATE:**

Do not confirm Jason Brune. He is an inappropriate choice for DEC Commissioner. Given his recent work for Pebble Mine, he will not be perceived as fair. This will make him ineffective.

I oppose this appointment.

**From:** Mary Sharp

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 27, 2019 11:32 AM

**To:** Rep. Ben Carpenter <[Rep.Ben.Carpenter@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Ben.Carpenter@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Matt Claman <[Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov)>; [representative.harriett.drummond@akleg.gov](mailto:representative.harriett.drummond@akleg.gov); Rep. David Eastman <[Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <[Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Zack Fields <[Rep.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Neal Foster <[Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Sara Hannan <[Rep.Sara.Hannan@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Sara.Hannan@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <[Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Andy Josephson <[Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Gary Knopp <[Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Gary.Knopp@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <[Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <[Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Bart LeBon <[Rep.Bart.Lebon@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Bart.Lebon@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <[Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov)>; Rep. John Lincoln <[Rep.John.Lincoln@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.John.Lincoln@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Kelly Merrick <[Rep.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Mark Neuman <[Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <[Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Sara Rasmussen <[Rep.Sara.Rasmussen@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Sara.Rasmussen@akleg.gov)>; Rep. George Rauscher <[Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Joshua Revak <[Rep.Joshua.Revak@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Joshua.Revak@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Laddie Shaw <[Rep.Laddie.Shaw@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Laddie.Shaw@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <[Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Andi Story <[Rep.Andi.Story@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Andi.Story@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Louise Stutes <[Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard <[Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Colleen.Sullivan-Leonard@akleg.gov)>; Rep. David Talerico <[Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Geran Tarr <[Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Steve Thompson <[Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <[Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Chris Tuck <[Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Sarah Vance <[Rep.Sarah.Vance@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Sarah.Vance@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <[Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Adam Wool <[Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Tiffany Zulkosky <[Rep.Tiffany.Zulkosky@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Tiffany.Zulkosky@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Grier Hopkins <[Rep.Grier.Hopkins@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Grier.Hopkins@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Sharon Jackson <[Rep.Sharon.Jackson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Sharon.Jackson@akleg.gov)>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <[Rep.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <[Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov)>

**Subject:** JASON BRUNE Dept. Of Conservation



***“Protecting Alaska, its Heritage and the Wonders of Bristol Bay”***

Dear Representative,

A number of committees have or are calling Mr. Jason Brune to testify regarding his appointment to the position of Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation.

AlaskaYes strongly opposes that appointment.

Mr. Brunes history as a paid employee and representative of the Pebble Mine Partnership alone makes his appointment distasteful to the 61% of Alaska residents, who do not support the Pebble Mine Partnership.

Mr. Brune looked representatives in the eye during a recent hearing and said he had not made up his mind on the project. That was a direct mistruth. Brune spent years as a representative of the Pebble Partnership telling the media, the state, the public and all who would listen, the Pebble mine was a great thing and should proceed.

It is one lie too many for this sensitive position.

Without honesty there is no integrity. Without integrity and honesty there is no place for Mr. Brune in the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

Please keep in mind, that 61% of Alaskans, are against the Pebble mine and for Alaska. Those are the same people who will be casting ballots in the next election cycle. Your decision and vote will be noticed.

On behalf of over 420,000 Alaskan citizens we encourage you to **vote NO** on all calls for votes for the appointment of Mr. Jason Brune as Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Thank you,  
Mary Sharp  
Communications Director  
AlaskaYes, Inc

# PETERSBURG LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: lio.petersburg@akleg.gov  
907-772-3741/ phone/ 907-772-3779/fax

## WRITTEN TESTIMONY

**YOUR FULL NAME:**

**REPRESENTING (ORGANIZATION OR SELF):**

**BILL #:**  **Subject**

**COMMITTEE NAME:**  **HEARING DATE:**

I am opposed to Jason Brune being appointed to the position of the Commissioner of the D.E.C.

**From:** [Thatcher Brouwer](#)  
**To:** [House Resources](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Acting Commissioner Jason Brune  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 27, 2019 8:34:36 AM

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Thatcher Brouwer  
House Resources Committee Aide  
Representative Geran Tarr  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 26, 2019 5:39 PM  
**To:** Linda Swiss <swiss.linda@gmail.com>; Thatcher Brouwer <Thatcher.Brouwer@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Acting Commissioner Jason Brune

Hi Linda – Thanks so much for writing in. We will make sure your email is included in the public testimony.

Best – Geran

Representative Geran Tarr  
House District 19  
State Capitol, Room 126  
Juneau, AK 99801  
907.465.3424 (office)  
[REDACTED]

[rep.geran.tarr@akleg.gov](mailto:rep.geran.tarr@akleg.gov)

Facebook: [Representative Geran Tarr](#)

Proudly Representing Airport Heights, Mountain View, and Russian Jack

**From:** Linda Swiss <[swiss.linda@gmail.com](mailto:swiss.linda@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 25, 2019 7:21 PM  
**To:** Rep. John Lincoln <[Rep.John.Lincoln@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.John.Lincoln@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Geran Tarr <[Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Grier Hopkins <[Rep.Grier.Hopkins@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Grier.Hopkins@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Sara Hannan <[Rep.Sara.Hannan@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Sara.Hannan@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <[Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Chris Tuck <[Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov)>; Rep. David Talerico <[Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov)>; Rep. George Rauscher <[Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Sara Rasmussen <[Rep.Sara.Rasmussen@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Sara.Rasmussen@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Acting Commissioner Jason Brune

This is to express my NON-SUPPORT OF APPOINTING JASON BRUNE as the Commissioner of the Dept. of Environmental Conservation. As a known advocate for mining, combined with his promise to roll back "burdensome" regulations for the mining and oil industries, I do not believe he would support protection of Alaska's resources and environment. Rather, he advocates that Alaska should be "open for business."

Mr. Brune's previous employment and positions do not give me confidence that he will support ADEC's mission of ***"Conserving, improving, and protecting Alaska's natural resources and environment to enhance the health, safety, economic, and social well-being of Alaskans."***

PLEASE VOTE NO ON JASON BRUNE.

Linda Swiss  
Anchorage, AK



**From:** [Michelle Weekly](#)  
**To:** [House Resources](#)  
**Subject:** About Mr. Brune  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 26, 2019 8:10:43 PM

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To Resource committee,

I tried several times to call in last night. 3/25, but both numbers were inoperable.

I oppose the appt. of Mr. Brune to head the Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation based on his prior connection to Pebble Mine. I am a retired fisher woman from Kodiak, Alaska. I fished for five seasons in Bristol Bay and therefore know that Bristol Bay fish are a valuable sustainable and healthy resource that we cannot trade for a copper gold mine that will ultimately pollute the waters of Bristol Bay. History in our mining industries bears witness to this consequence.

Mr. Brune has said that he no longer has a financial stake in Pebble Mine but he definitely is of the mind set that mining in that area is a good thing as he owned in the past stock in the company and has been forth coming that he is a proponent of this endeavor.

We need a head that has had no connection to mining or drilling and that will truly conserve our state and in my mind this means conserve the health of our wildlife, almost important resource.

Michelle Weekly

**From:** [Oceana Wills](#)  
**To:** [House Resources](#)  
**Subject:** Opposing Jason Brune as DEC Commissioner  
**Date:** Monday, March 25, 2019 6:47:14 PM

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Dear committee and whom it may concern,

Thank you for this opportunity to voice my testimony. My name is Oceana Wills, representing myself. I am from Homer and have been commercial fishing in Bristol Bay since I was a teenager. This summer will be my twelfth season.

I oppose Governor Dunleavy's appointment of Jason Brune as commissioner of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

As a fisherman I am deeply concerned with Pebble Mine's potential impact on salmon habitat.

Jason Brune's career history as a mining lobbyist and spokesperson would place him in a conflict of interest as DEC commissioner.

I am afraid that Brune will not make objective decisions in the name of clean air, water, land and sustainable resource management but rather decisions that will uphold the high speed advancement of Pebble Mine.

Thank you for your time and please vote no on this appointment.

Sincerely,  
Oceana Wills

**From:** [karelbill](#)  
**To:** [House Resources](#)  
**Subject:** Brune  
**Date:** Monday, March 25, 2019 8:54:25 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

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**Hello.**

This note is comment on proposed hire of Mr. Jason Brune as commissioner of AK DNR.. the wrong person for the job.

**DNR;** *Our mission:* The Department of Natural Resources' mission is to develop, conserve and maximize the use of Alaska's natural resources consistent with the public interest.

Mr. Brune has been recorded telling members of the mining industry that he would cut regulations. This is unacceptable. We need to enforce regulations to protect our important natural resources, including our water resources. Clean water is important for people, landscapes, fish, fisheries, wildlife, and recreation.

Mr. Brune has been widely known to support Pebble Mine and other mining operations. Mining operations have proven on numerous occasions to be hazardous to clean water during and after operations.

Development of the Pebble Partnership would be particularly risky for so many reasons and a perfect example of “trading one resource for another.” The water and fisheries of Bristol Bay are proven natural resources that are valuable, renewable, and sustainable. Pebble Mine is high risk, unprovable, wide reaching non-renewable option that would create a toxic legacy for our children and into perpetuity. Operationally, there many ways to trade off many resources: ports to build, roads and pipelines to cross streams and tundra as well as import of mining supplies and equipment.

Why risk a valuable, proven resource for a short term gain? I am fearful that Mr. Brune would not be able to ignore his past intents of resource development and adapt to “conserve” and protect our valuable natural resources.

Pebble. Wrong mine in place. Do not trade off proven long term resource for a new unknown resource with potentially bad consequences.

Jason Brune: wrong person in wrong job.

Bill Hauser, FISH TALK, Author and Fish Biologist (for 50+ years)

- ***Letters from Alaska***, *The Inside to the Outside* (Short stories about life in Alaska)

- ***Fishes of the Last Frontier***, *Life Histories, Biology, Ecology, and Management of Alaska Fishes*

(About our Alaska fishes, written in non-technical language.)

[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, AK 99515

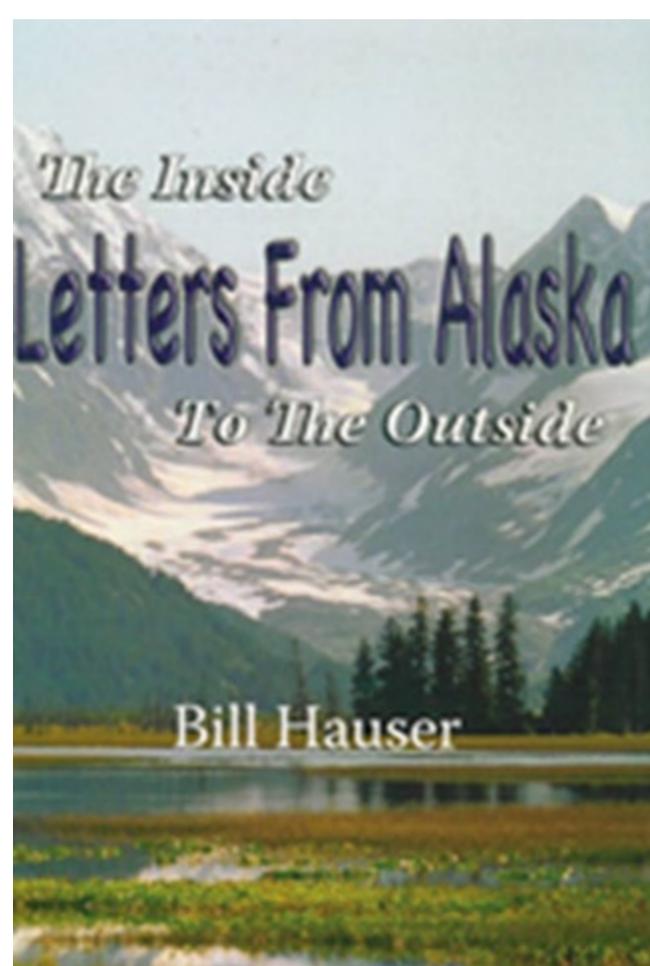
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[www.billhauserbooks.com](http://www.billhauserbooks.com) : Read sample chapters and other information (South Africa; So America; North Slope)

# Fishes of the Last Frontier

Life Histories, Biology, Ecology,  
and Management of Alaska Fishes



**William J. Hauser**

The background of the book cover is a detailed landscape painting. It depicts a vast mountain valley. In the foreground, there is a lush green meadow with patches of yellow wildflowers. A calm lake reflects the surrounding scenery. A dense forest of evergreen trees lines the shore of the lake. In the background, majestic mountains with snow-capped peaks rise against a pale, hazy sky. The overall style is reminiscent of classic landscape art.

*The Inside*  
**Letters From Alaska**  
*To The Outside*

Bill Hauser

**From:** [Anelise Zimmer](#)  
**To:** [House Resources](#)  
**Subject:** Jason Brune appointment  
**Date:** Monday, March 25, 2019 7:14:23 PM

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Hello,

My name is Anelise Zimmer, representing myself, and I am writing to oppose the appointment of Jason Brune as commissioner of ADEC. I was raised in Kodiak and my appreciation for our natural environment has led me to pursue degrees in environmental science. I now work in the seafood industry in the realm of environmental policy. As an Alaskan, an environmental scientist, and as someone who works in a culturally important industry that depends on the health of wild salmon and the environment, I believe that Jason Brune is not fit to serve as commissioner of ADEC. Jason Brune's ties to Anglo American and clear bias towards unsustainable projects such as Pebble Mine do not reflect the best interests of Alaskans nor the mission statement of ADEC, which is to "to enhance the health, safety, economic, and social well-being of Alaskans."

Thank you,  
Anelise Zimmer

**From:** [chloe ivanoff](#)  
**To:** [House Resources](#)  
**Subject:** Jason Brune Conflict of Interest-VOTE NO  
**Date:** Monday, March 25, 2019 8:04:56 PM

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Good Evening,

I believe Jason Brune as the head of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation is a complete conflict of interest. We need someone who has a more neutral stance on mining and development versus environmental preservation and non development. This is a huge threat to pebble mine and the LAST safe place for wild salmon in the world. At the end of the day we cannot eat money or mined metals and minerals, but we will always be able to eat salmon if we place people in our local government that work towards protecting our food source.

Thank you for your time,  
Chloe Ivanoff  
lifelong Alaskan resident

**From:** [barbararondine](#)  
**To:** [House Resources](#)  
**Subject:** Jason Brune  
**Date:** Monday, March 25, 2019 7:52:23 PM

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I am writing to oppose the appointment of Jason Brune as commissioner of Alaska Department of Conservation. His past history and his statements show very clearly that he is biased to support mining and development at the cost of clean air and Alaskans' health.

Please hep stop our runaway problems environmentally.

Sincerely,

Barbara Rondine  
[REDACTED]  
Fairbanks, Alaska  
99709  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

**From:** [Kalsin Clark](#)  
**To:** [House Resources](#)  
**Subject:** NO pebble mine  
**Date:** Monday, March 25, 2019 8:09:19 PM

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My name is Kalsin Clark and I was born and raised in Kodiak AK(99615) and into fishing. I am for fishing and against pebble mine. So without hesitation I am opposing the appointment of Jason Brune as Commissioner of Environmental Conservation.

Thank you,  
Kalsin Clark

**From:** [Garrett McCarthy](#)  
**To:** [House Resources](#)  
**Subject:** Opposing Jason Brune for DEC commissioner  
**Date:** Monday, March 25, 2019 6:51:07 PM

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To whom it may concern,

On the subject of Jason Brune's appointment there is a clear conflict of interest. There is a parallel that comes to mind: We do not allow people who have fished in federal water to be NOAA observers. How then do we allow lobbyists who have worked for mining companies to be in the very powerful position of protecting the environment? I understand that I'm comparing federal and state governments but I feel my point should not be disregarded.

Concerned,  
Garrett McCarthy  
Of Anchor Point, AK

**From:** [Sarah Braund](#)  
**To:** [House Resources](#)  
**Subject:** opposition to Jason Brune  
**Date:** Monday, March 25, 2019 7:45:32 PM

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Hello,

I phoned in at 7:10pm this evening in order to give my verbal testimony in opposition to the appointment of Jason Brune. I was told no new callers were being allowed to testify and was given this email. I do not feel it is in my best interest, my children's, the State of Alaska and quite frankly the natural world to appoint Jason Brune as the head of Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation. Brune is an inappropriate and unqualified choice and has a background heavily rooted in mining not environmental conservation. I vehemently oppose.

Sarah Braund

 Homer AK 99603

**From:** [Bryce and Janis Klug](#)  
**To:** [House Resources](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to the confirmation of Jason Brune as Commissioner of the DEC  
**Date:** Monday, March 25, 2019 7:02:07 PM

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To the Members of the House,

I am writing to oppose the confirmation of Jason Brune as Commissioner of the DEC. His alliance with the mining industry, especially Pebble Mine, screams "CONFLICT OF INTEREST!!!!" The analogy that comes to mind would be appointing Big Tobacco to lead the FDA. His talk at the Resource Development Council last week is proof that he doesn't intend to act in the best interest of environmental conservation. He is biased towards the mining industry and it is unethical to allow him to serve as commissioner of the DEC.

Janis Klug

**From:** [beth rosenberg](#)  
**To:** [House Resources](#)  
**Subject:** Please do NOT confirm Jason Brune  
**Date:** Monday, March 25, 2019 9:02:59 PM

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To the committee in charge of selecting the director of environmental conservation for Alaska:

I am a loyal citizen of Alaska in a long-time supporter of our State in every regard. It is based on this that I ask you, please, do NOT confirm Jason Brune to run the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. It would be a conflict of interests that would not do justice to our great State.

This department is responsible for evaluating projects in an unbiased way that would have huge impacts on the state of Alaska, both in the short- and in the long-term. It would be impossible for Jason Brune to run the DEC in a fair and unbiased way when he has made a career as a lobbyist and executive in the mining industry. Any lawyer or judge in such a position would be forced to recuse themselves. Please, do NOT ask someone who ran the Resource Development Council for 11 years to say he will not be affected by this history and can run the DEC for Alaska in the best possible way. Jason Brune is a long-time supporter of the controversial proposed Pebble Mine and was Pebble Mine spokesman when Anglo-American ran the project. He has a long history of supporting Pebble Mine on social media. And reportedly, he recently stood in front of the Resource Development Council and implied that if he were put in charge of the DEC, there would be cuts to environmental regulations according to their requests! This is NOT good for Alaska.

Again, please, do NOT confirm Jason Brune run the Department of Environmental Conservation. It is a conflict of interests and not what is best for the State of Alaska.

We need someone who does not have strong affiliations and loyalties to one industry sector. It is important that the head of this department make educated, unbiased decisions about the best route for development in Alaska.

I strongly request that you NOT confirm Jason Brune.

Thank you,  
Beth Rosenberg  
Anchorage, Alaska

# PETERSBURG LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: lio.petersburg@akleg.gov  
907-772-3741/ phone/ 907-772-3779/fax

## WRITTEN TESTIMONY

**YOUR FULL NAME:**

**REPRESENTING (ORGANIZATION OR SELF):**

**BILL #:**  **Subject**

**COMMITTEE NAME:**  **HEARING DATE:**

My name is David Somerville and I have been an Alaska resident for the last 45 years. For the last 25 years or more, I have been a Bristol Bay Gillnetter.

Mr. Brune was employed by Anglo American, advocating for the Pebble Mine. Now, in a January 11 interview, he said he doesn't have a position on the highly contentious mine plan. Based on his past history, I find it extremely hard to believe that he can be objective in reviewing Pebble's Permit Application.

So many people are opposed to this appointment. Why can't we find a less controversial, objective leader for the DEC.

Mr. Brune is not the right person to lead the DEC.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns.