

William P. Barr

April 29, 2026

Via Electronic Mail

Hon. Scott Kawasaki
Chair
Senate State Affairs Committee
State Capitol Room 119
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Chair Kawasaki:

I am writing to express my support for the confirmation of Stephen Cox as Attorney General of Alaska. Having served twice as Attorney General of the United States, I understand the critical role an attorney general plays in our system of government -- based on the rule of law -- and why this selection matters so much for Alaska. Steve has my unqualified highest support.

I worked very closely with Steve during my last tenure as US Attorney General when he was serving in the office of the Associate Attorney General. I was deeply impressed by his intellectual rigor, energy and diligent execution. But most of all, I saw that Steve possessed the most important trait of all for a lawyer and government leader -- sound judgment -- the prudence to weigh all relevant circumstances and take just the right action the situation calls for.

Steve quickly became a key leader in the Department -- a man in whom I reposed complete confidence. I was so impressed with his leadership abilities that, when the U.S. Attorney position became vacant in a key federal district facing many challenges, the Eastern District of Texas, I called on Steve to fill that important post. Steve excelled as U.S. Attorney. Stepping into a difficult environment, he quickly stabilized the office, won the trust of the key career prosecutors, and amassed an impressive record of achievement.

Steve brought to the U.S. Attorney post a practical, results-oriented enforcement approach. He strengthened white-collar enforcement, expanded healthcare fraud capacity, built partnerships with major financial institutions and law enforcement, and launched initiatives targeting elder fraud and transnational financial crime.

I relied on Steve to help broker the Purdue Pharma global resolution—one of the most complex civil and criminal matters the Department faced—integrating criminal charges, civil fraud claims, and a structure that would direct billions in opioid abatement funding to states, including Alaska.

Early in my tenure, I also relied on Steve to help me execute an important initiative concerning Alaska. My 2019 visit to your great state left a strong impression — the scale of the State, the acute public safety challenges in rural communities and Alaska Native villages, and the need for law enforcement resources. We responded by mobilizing and directing to Alaska over \$10 million in emergency public safety funding on an accelerated timeline. Steve helped oversee the key grant-making components of that effort, ensuring those resources were deployed quickly and effectively to the communities that needed them most.

Importantly for Alaska, Steve knows how federal agencies function — the departments of Justice, Interior, Agriculture, Energy, and the other agencies relevant to Alaska. He understands where decisions are made and how to affect them. This federal-level competence is particularly well suited to Alaska -- a state that routinely faces federal-scale challenges, such as those relating to resource development, federal land issues, regulatory complexity, and public safety in far-flung rural areas. Alaska would benefit from an Attorney General who can operate effectively both within the state and in Washington.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my views on Steve Cox's eminent qualifications for this important position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'WP Barr', written in a cursive style.

William P. Barr