

Breanna Kakaruk

From: Heather Beck <hlbeck444@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2026 10:59 AM
To: Senate Judiciary
Subject: RE: Opposition to the Confirmation of Stephen J. Cox as Attorney General

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Heather Beck
18602 Guillemot Circle
Anchorage, AK 99516

January 27, 2026

Dear Senator Claman,

I am writing this letter to urge you to vote “No” on the confirmation of Stephen J. Cox as Attorney General for Alaska. While the appointment of an Attorney General is a prerogative of the Governor, the Legislature’s role in confirmation is a vital check against candidates whose professional independence and priorities are at odds with the best interests of Alaskans.

Alaska’s Department of Law has been roiled by instability and corruption for years and residents are tired of the turnover as a result of questionable ethics. We saw this with Kevin Clarkson, who resigned in 2020, then, again with Ed Sniffen in 2021, both of whom exercised questionable ethics and judgement.

After a period of turmoil, Alaska needs an Attorney General who is focused entirely on Alaskan issues and ethical transparency. Unfortunately, Mr. Cox begins his tenure under a cloud of conflict that mirrors the lack of judgement seen in his predecessors. We cannot afford another Attorney General defined by personal agendas and private interests.

The most significant concern regarding Mr. Cox centers around his personal ties to the controversy of the Anchorage School District (ASD) and Hillsdale College. Late last year, Mr. Cox publicly attacked the ASD for placing disclaimer stickers on materials distributed by Hillsdale College. These stickers were applied in accordance with a 2021 policy established by then Superintendent Deena Bishop. Mr. Cox’s decision to ignore these facts and join a political “anti-public school” narrative is deeply troubling, particularly because Stephen Cox is a founding member of the Thomas More School, a private school supported by Hillsdale College. As Attorney General, he must impartially and rigorously defend state education laws; his history of using his platform to target public school districts over private interests he helped establish creates an irreconcilable conflict of interest.

Furthermore, Stephen Cox’s administrative actions suggest a concerning lack of professional independence and financial stewardship. Recently, Mr. Cox awarded a \$350,000 no-bid contract to his former law firm, WilmerHale, to review state investment deals. This creates the appearance of an open door between his office and outside firms, but he also attempted to keep the hourly rates paid to the firm’s attorneys a secret, shielded from public oversight. He has also terminated long-standing legal contacts with firms handling important litigation, such as the state’s opioid cases by alleging “conflicts of interest.” However, observers note that these firms were targeted by outside groups for their political leanings rather than their performance. These actions put Alaska’s multi-million dollar settlements at risk for the sake of Lower 48 political theater. Finally, since his appointment, Cox has signed Alaska onto numerous multi-state *amicus* briefs concerning social issues in the

Lower 48. This is a waste of Department of Law resources at a time when Alaska faces urgent local needs: a crippling backlog in the public defender system and the highest rates of violence against women in the nation.

Alaska needs an Attorney General who is focused on Alaskan issues and protecting Alaskan tax dollars, Stephen Cox is more focused on proving his loyalty to large, outside interests and private school networks. For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to vote against the confirmation of Stephen J. Cox.

Sincerely,

Heather Beck



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

April 30, 2026

Submitted electronically via: Senate.Judiciary@akleg.gov

Senate Judiciary Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

RE: Support Confirmation of Stephen Cox to Attorney General of Alaska

Dear Chair Claman and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

On behalf of the Resource Development Council for Alaska (RDC), I am writing to support the confirmation of Stephen J. Cox as Attorney General of the State of Alaska.

Mr. Cox brings relevant experience at both the federal and state levels. His service in senior roles at the U.S. Department of Justice and as a United States Attorney provides familiarity with federal processes and relationships that are important as Alaska continues to engage on key federal priorities, including recent progress related to Alaska-specific Executive Orders. He also has direct private sector experience working on energy, infrastructure, and resource development projects in Alaska. This background provides a practical understanding of the legal and regulatory environment affecting many of the State's core industries to include experience with Alaska Native Corporations.

RDC's Board of Directors met with Mr. Cox during our legislative fly-in this year and we found him to be thoughtful and well-informed on the issues facing the State. Based on his experience and qualifications, as well as actions he has taken as designee, we believe Mr. Cox is prepared to serve effectively in this role. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Connor Hajdukovich
Executive Director
Resource Development Council for Alaska



TOURISM



FISHERIES



OIL & GAS



MINING



FORESTRY

(907) 276-0700

301 W. Northern Lights Blvd., Ste. 406, Anchorage, Alaska 99503

www.akrdc.org

JAMIE S. GORELICK
3713 WILLIAMS LANE
CHEVY CHASE, MD 20815

April 27, 2026

The Honorable Matt Claman
Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
State Capitol Room 429
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Confirmation of Stephen Cox

Dear Senator Claman:

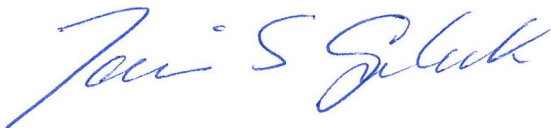
I am writing in my personal capacity as a lawyer who has known Steve Cox for many years. I first met Steve when he was a law student in the summer associate program at my law firm. He was serious, disciplined, and a pleasure to work with. Over the ensuing years, I kept up with him as he returned to work at the firm and as he took on various public service roles.

We worked together most closely when he was part of the team that helped BP address the Deepwater Horizon spill. We dispatched him to the Houston headquarters very early in the matter to help organize our work. He demonstrated maturity and steadiness in a high-pressure environment. He was also recruited by one of my partners to help the Commission headed by former FBI Director William Webster looking into the Fort Hood shooting and, as I recall, he was critical to that work.

I also observed some of Steve's work at the U.S. Department of Justice. He handled some of the Department's most complex civil and criminal matters, including consequential resolutions with significant implications.

My observation of Steve is that he works very well with people -- including in a firm that has both Republicans and Democrats. He built consensus among stakeholders and listened to all voices. These characteristics have made him effective in his work in private practice and in public service. I am happy to support his confirmation as Attorney General of the State of Alaska.

Sincerely,



Jamie S. Gorelick

Breanna Kakaruk

From: Laura Stats <laurastatsdaugherty@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2026 10:17 AM
To: Senate State Affairs; Senate Judiciary
Cc: Rep. Sara Hannan; Rep. Andi Story; Sen. Jesse Kiehl
Subject: Do not support Stephen Fox for AK Attorney General

Dear Members of Senate State Affairs Committee and Judiciary Committee,

Do not confirm Stephan Cox as attorney general to the state of Alaska. I am certain you are aware of his very short lived experience and interest in Alaska as an attorney.

His interest is in national politics not the public welfare of Alaskans. He will serve as a political appointee of Mr. Trump and Mr. Fox will serve to carry out Mr Trumps missions for Alaska.

Mr Trump is very interested in unchecked resource development, exploitation of public lands, building detention centers throughout the country and even targeting our state's choice of rank choice voting.

We need an attorney general who understands the people of our state, who has experience with our Alaska Constitution, the complexities of a large state, the different regions, the Alaska Native perspective and ANILCA to name a few and who at least knows the five types of salmon that exist within our borders.

I strongly urge you to vote against the confirmation of Stephen Cox as Alaska's Attorney General because he simply has no real interest in Alaska and is being sent as a political pawn.

Respectfully,
Laura Stats
Juneau, Alaska

Breanna Kakaruk

From: Kit Holmstrom <kith@gci.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2026 7:30 AM
To: Senate Judiciary
Subject: Confirmation of Stephen J. Cox

Sent from my iPhone

My name is L. Kathryn Holmstrom and I have been a resident of Alaska for over 40 years. I am in support of the confirmation of Stephen J. Cox as Alaska's Attorney General. He not only has held this position in the past and presided over many complex civil and criminal matters, he has emphasized public safety, consumer protection and the rule of law. He also has provided regulatory reform by implementing Administrative Order 360 and established Alaska's first State Solicitor General.

He has proved himself to be extremely competent and a man of integrity; not being swayed by political pressure. In short, Stephen J. Cox should be confirmed to the position of Alaska Attorney General.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, L. Kathryn Holmstrom

Breanna Kakaruk

From: Christopher Robison <crobisonlaw@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2026 9:37 PM
To: Senate State Affairs; Senate Judiciary
Subject: Letter Supporting Confirmation of Governor's Appointee Stephen Cox

Dear Chair Claman, Chair Kawasaki, and Honorable Committee members,

My name is Chris Robison, and I am a resident of Anchorage. I am writing to support the confirmation of Stephen Cox as Alaska's Attorney General.

First, AG Cox is unquestionably qualified to lead the Department of Law. He has extensive and diverse experience in both the public and private sectors. He served as United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas — a district with a population in excess of 3.5 million people — and as Deputy Associate Attorney General and Chief of Staff at the Office of the Associate Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice.

Locally, his private sector experience as Chief Legal and Strategy Officer for Bristol Bay Industrial — an affiliate of Bristol Bay Native Corporation — gives him a unique understanding of the legal and economic challenges facing our state.

Second, AG Cox has already demonstrated a clear commitment to consumer protection that provides tangible benefits to all Alaskans. For example, under his leadership, the Department of Law launched the statewide grocery pricing compliance program to protect families and promote transparency and accountability at retail grocery stores. He has also aggressively and successfully pursued consumer fraud, including a landmark settlement with car dealerships and lawsuits against crowdfunding platforms to protect charitable giving.

Third, AG Cox understands that a primary duty of the Attorney General is to protect the safety and well-being of Alaskans. Under AG Cox's watch, the Department of Law announced its Quality of Life Initiative — a joint task force between the State and the Municipality of Anchorage designed to combat retail theft and restore public order. The initiative also demonstrates AG Cox's collaborative spirit and ability to reach across the aisle and work effectively with other governmental agencies to deliver tangible results for Alaskans.

Finally, I would urge this body to consider the broader precedent of considering a nominee's decision to sign on to multi-state amicus briefs or lawsuits as a material part of the confirmation process. Whether or one agrees with a specific amicus effort or claim, the decision to participate in litigation is quintessentially an Executive Branch, and Attorney General, function.

Conditioning confirmation on discretionary legal judgments sets a dangerous precedent that could undermine the independence of future Attorneys General, regardless of their political persuasion. The focus should remain on the nominee's qualifications and proven track record of serving Alaskans.

Attorney General Cox has the experience, dedication to consumer rights, and legal acumen we need in our chief law enforcement officer. I respectfully urge this committee to support his confirmation.

Respectfully,

Chris Robison

Breanna Kakaruk

From: Julia Skelley <julia@beaconrealtyhomes.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2026 9:43 AM
To: Senate Judiciary
Subject: Confirmation of Stephen J Cox

Date: April 30, 2026

Dear Committee Chair,

It is my distinct honor to write this letter in emphatic support of Stephen J. Cox for the position of Attorney General of Alaska. Having moved his family to Alaska and established deep roots here, Stephen has proven himself to be a dedicated Alaskan whose commitment to our state is matched only by his professional excellence.

I first came to know Stephen while serving alongside him on a Board of Directors. During our time working together, I witnessed firsthand his unwavering integrity and his singular focus on completing the task at hand with absolute precision. Stephen is a leader who is disciplined, results-driven, and possesses calm, grounded judgment. In my experience with him, I have found that he holds a profound respect for the rule of law and an understanding of the proper, restrained use of government power—a trait that is essential for the state’s chief legal officer.

Professionally, Stephen’s track record demonstrates an ability to translate policy into meaningful, tangible results that improve daily life for Alaskans. His leadership on the Joint State-Anchorage Quality of Life Initiative serves as a prime example of his effectiveness. By targeting retail theft and ensuring that repeat offenders are held accountable, he has not only improved public safety but also protected Alaskans from the unnecessary price increases that result from rampant business losses.

Furthermore, Stephen has shown a keen ability to protect the integrity of our community institutions. His work to target the misuse of unauthorized charitable fundraising platforms has been vital in ensuring that Alaska’s non-profits are protected from fraud and that our donors can give with confidence, knowing their contributions are reaching the intended causes.

As the owner of a top-producing real estate company in Alaska, I understand the importance of having leaders who are focused on stability, the rule of law, and protecting the economic interests of our citizens. Stephen J. Cox possesses the character, the temperament, and the proven experience required to serve with distinction as our Attorney General.

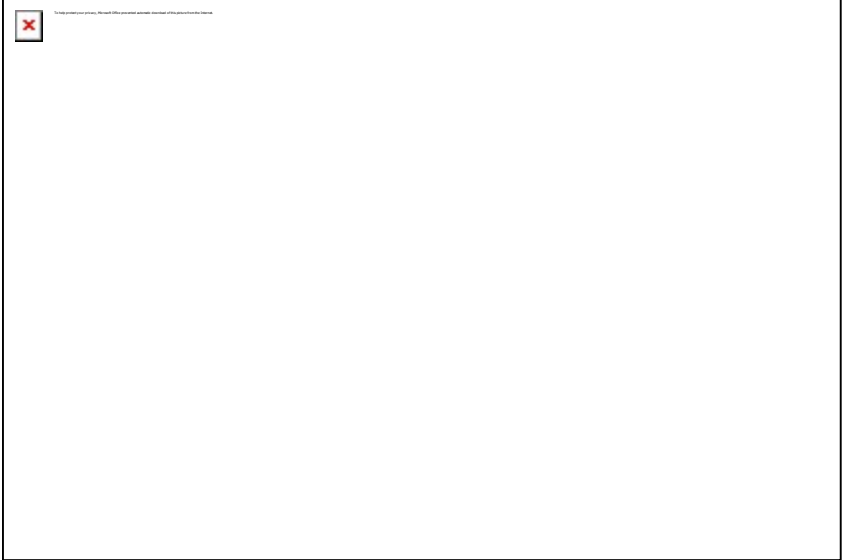
I wholeheartedly recommend his confirmation and trust that he will serve the State of Alaska with the same excellence and integrity he has demonstrated throughout his career.

Sincerely,

Julia Skelley

--

Julia Skelley
Owner & REALTOR®
907-231-7734



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ [Read our Reviews!](#)

Breanna Kakaruk

From: Sen. Matt Claman
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2026 10:34 AM
To: Senate Judiciary
Subject: FW: AG confirmation

From: Francis Adams <smada101@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2026 10:27 AM
To: Sen. Matt Claman <Sen.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>
Subject: AG confirmation

Please do not confirm Stephen Cox as Attorney General. He has not explained to Alaskans why he has signed on to numerous amicus briefs.

Thank you.

Francis Adams
Fairbanks

Bruce M. Botelho
401 F Street
Douglas, Alaska 99824

April 29, 2026

Senator Matt Claman, Chair
Alaska State Senate Judiciary Committee
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Senator Scott Kawasaki, Chair
Alaska State Senate State Affairs Committee
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Representative Andrew Gray, Chair
Alaska State House Judiciary Committee
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Chairmen Claman, Kawasaki and Gray:

I submit this letter as written testimony to oppose the confirmation of Stephen J. Cox for the office of Attorney General.

I began my career as an attorney in the Alaska Department of Law and served under six attorneys general of both parties before having the honor to serve in that capacity under Governors Hickel and Knowles. I have also worked with several of my successors, some of whose politics and policies did not align with my own, but whose commitment to serving Alaska was never in doubt. In no case did I feel compelled to speak against the confirmation of any cabinet officer, attorney general or otherwise. Sadly, I do so today in opposition to the confirmation of Attorney General Cox.

The Attorney General of Alaska must be the state's chief legal officer, not its chief culture warrior. The position demands sound judgment, independence from partisan and private interests, respect for Alaska's constitutional framework, and a disciplined sense of when the power of the office should – and should not – be used. I do not know Mr. Cox personally, but because of my propriety interest in the activities of the Department of Law, I have followed his performance closely. Mr. Cox's conduct falls short of what the public should expect and what the office itself demands.

I begin with Mr. Cox's decision to challenge the *Katie John* line of cases once again. In *U.S. v. Alaska* (the Kuskokwim subsistence litigation), the Supreme Court denied Alaska's petition for certiorari on January 12, 2026. In the courts below, the district court and then the Ninth Circuit

upheld federal authority under ANILCA to enforce a rural subsistence priority on the Kuskokwim River, explicitly reaffirming the *Katie John* decisions and enjoining the State from actions that interfere with federal implementation of that priority. Nevertheless, General Cox petitioned the Supreme Court in September 2025 to reverse the Kuskokwim rulings and to dismantle the *Katie John* framework. The Supreme Court's denial of cert without explanation, thereby ending the case and leaving *Katie John* not only intact but freshly vindicated by a final rebuff from the only court that could have altered it. It is a disservice to all Alaskans to raise expectations that yet another run at the federal appellate courts would somehow result in a different outcome. The only beneficiaries of this case were the outside lawyers who represented the state.

It is customary for attorneys general around the country to seek amicus support from their colleagues in cases that raise issues of common concern. Traditionally, that support has been in the fields of consumer protection and anti-trust. In each case, the joining attorney general affixes his name and the credit of his state onto the cause. During my tenure, I personally reviewed each request and signed on to no more than 3 or 4 a year. In his first seven months in office, Mr. Cox has participated in over 110 cases, some before the Supreme Court and others in federal courts around the country.

In each case, the signature and imprimatur of the State is an expression of the state's official policy, though I suspect that many of his expressions do not represent either the views of the executive, the legislature or the people of Alaska.

Over his signature, the State of Alaska is now on record as:

- Opposing birthright citizenship
- Opposing mandatory immunization for communicable diseases
- Opposing judicial review of the Secretary of Homeland Security's termination of Temporary Protected Status for immigrants
- Supporting the US Secretary of Education's denial of funding to NYCity's magnet schools because of the latter's DEI policies
- Supporting nursing home arbitration agreements despite federal rules that condition federal funds on facilities not requiring arbitration agreements as a condition of admission.
- Supporting the State of Texas' mid-decennial redistricting efforts
- Supporting the President's removal of Lisa Cook as a governor of the Federal Reserve

I feel compelled to comment particularly on his decision to oppose birthright citizenship. Whatever one's view of national immigration policy, this position has profound implications for Alaskans and their families, including those in military service, on temporary work visas, or in mixed-status households. It invites the creation of a hereditary underclass of U.S.-born children whose status is perpetually uncertain, in direct tension with the inclusive, forward-looking values embodied in Alaska's own constitution. There was no Alaska-specific legal necessity that compelled our Attorney General to weigh in on this national controversy in this way.

That case stands in contrast to one in which Alaska had a specific and compelling reason to participate: *Watson v. Republican National Committee*, No. 24-1260. Here the Republican

Party challenged Mississippi's law that allowed absentee ballots received shortly after election day to count so long as they were postmarked by election day. Alaska's law has similar provisions deeply ingrained in our election system and especially critical to voter participation, particularly in remote areas of the state. But rather than align in support of Mississippi's position and champion Alaska's absentee ballot procedures, the attorney general merely sought "clarity" on the rules, concluding specifically: "While it is clear when a ballot is "cast" in Alaska (meaning that the vote cannot be changed), when certain ballots are actually "received" is open to different interpretations, especially given the connectivity challenges for Alaska's far-flung boroughs." His failure to forcefully defend Alaska's election system was a gaping abdication of responsibility.

The office of Attorney General should not be a platform for one person's ideological brand – whether on the right or on the left. When the State speaks in federal appellate courts and the United States Supreme Court, it should be because Alaska's people have something at stake, not because the Attorney General is eager to sign onto the latest amicus brief circulating in national partisan networks. Mr. Cox's pattern of engagement suggests that he views the job primarily through the lens of those national networks rather than through Alaska's distinct needs as a state.

To his credit, General Cox has used his consumer protection powers to go after six crowdfunding platforms for creating donation pages for charities without their knowledge or consent. On the other hand, he announced to the Federalist Society in October his intent to use his consumer protection powers as part of Alaska's "whole of government" counter-China initiative, aiming to coordinate criminal, civil, consumer, procurement, and infrastructure tools to address Chinese-linked risks he sees in efforts to surveil Americans, obtain sensitive data, and steal intellectual property. This is a remit that better belongs with federal authorities and not with the state of Alaska. It also stands in contrast to the first Trump Administration's and the state government's efforts to engage China in the financing of the trans-Alaska gas pipeline.

Mr. Cox has had a disturbing habit of trying to compel behavior through press releases and communications with enterprises that he simultaneously releases publicly. It is a strategy that appears intended to draw maximum attention to him, but undercuts confidence in both his judgment and the likelihood of favorable resolution.

In response to Chugach Electric's "Cents for Community" round-up program, in which customer bills are rounded up and the difference is donated to a community fund unless a customer opts out, he issued a high-profile consumer alert and denounced the program as a form of "compelled subsidy" raising "serious First Amendment concerns." He warned broadly against "automatic charitable billing programs" and suggested they risk channeling ratepayer funds into "special-interest slush funds," even though customers remained free to opt out.

Charitable giving by regulated utilities has long been part of community life in Alaska and is typically overseen through existing governance mechanisms. Mr. Cox chose not to work quietly with the utilities to refine disclosure and consent, but instead to escalate the issue publicly, cast it in constitutional culture-war terms, and threaten further scrutiny of charitable practices that many Alaskans support.

Mr. Cox has also trained the powers of his office on Alaska Airlines in a way that again prioritizes public confrontation over careful legal work. In a December 2025 letter to Alaska Airlines' CEO, he asserted that the company's internal policies "discourage employees from cooperating with law enforcement" and claimed that this posture is "undermining prosecutions," citing unnamed cases supposedly abandoned because prosecutors feared workplace retaliation against airline employees. He publicly framed the company's code of conduct as "inconsistent" and implied that Alaska Airlines was effectively shielding criminal activity related to drug interdiction.

Air carriers have legitimate obligations to protect passenger privacy, avoid discrimination, and comply with federal regulations. Rather than acknowledging those competing legal constraints and seeking a quiet, cooperative solution, he chose to issue a public letter and press release that cast Alaska's namesake carrier as an obstacle to public safety, again without providing transparent, verifiable case examples to support his assertions.

His handling of the Anchorage School District "non-endorsement sticker" incident illustrates the problem once again. He publicly suggested that members of the Anchorage School Board had violated their oaths of office because the district affixed a standard "non-endorsement" disclaimer on pamphlets containing the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution that were distributed through the Daughters of the American Revolution. He followed up with a sweeping, quasi-investigatory letter to the district, implying deliberate misconduct and asserting authority over local school operations that the Attorney General does not possess under Anchorage's home-rule structure.

A basic review of the facts would have shown that the disclaimer practice long predated this incident and was applied to outside materials to distinguish them from official district communications, not to repudiate the founding documents. The Anchorage School District, in its formal response, flatly rejected Mr. Cox's claim of authority and explained that the stickers were an application of existing policy, not a political statement.

In playing to a national audience through the *Washington Post*, General Cox attacked the State of Louisiana for supporting a lawsuit in state court against an oil industry giant, arguing that state courts lack the competence to deal with issues that could have national ramifications. While his view prevailed in the Supreme Court, his particular perspective was alarming. An individual who holds state courts in such low regard should not be leading the law firm that appears before those courts more than any other.

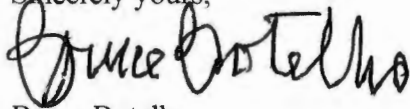
His actions and his very recent admission to the Alaska Bar raise legitimate concerns about whether he fully appreciates the state's distinct legal and political culture.

The Attorney General's power is largely a power of voice: what issues he chooses to elevate, how he characterizes them, and how he deploys the threat or promise of state legal action. When that voice is used to chase national headlines, repeat partisan talking points, or intimidate local officials without clear statutory authority, the result is to cheapen the office and erode public trust.

I have no basis to question Mr. Cox's sincerity in his beliefs. But the office he now holds on an acting basis requires more than sincerity; it requires discipline, humility before the facts, scrupulous avoidance of conflicts, and unwavering devotion to Alaska's own constitution and people. On the record before you, he has not met that standard.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Legislature to reject the confirmation of Stephen J. Cox as Attorney General of Alaska.

Sincerely yours,

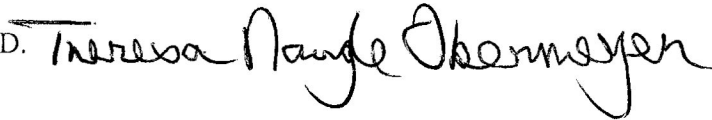
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Botelho". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bruce Botelho

TO: Hon. Scott Kawawsaki, Hon. Jesse Bjorkman, Hon. Bill Wielechowski, Hon. Elvi Gray-Jackson,
Hon. Cathy Tilton, Alaska Senate State Affairs Committee and
Hon. Matt Claman, Hon. Jesse Kiehl, Hon. Gary Stevens, Hon. Loki Tobin, Hon. Cathy Tilton,
Alaska Senate Judiciary Committee

FROM: Theresa Nangle Obermeyer, Ph.D.

ElectAKAG@gmail.com



DATE: April 29, 2026

RE: Confirmation of Stephen J. Cox, Alaska Attorney General

I have lived in Alaska since 1978 and today we have a family of eight Alaska Registered Voters and six children.

I find that Alaska Bench and Bar completely unaccountable. I have finally set up a Facebook Group: "Elect Alaska Attorney General" <https://www.facebook.com/groups/697790762401945>.

I do not know how to respond about the task before you, i.e., to confirm another Alaska Attorney General. I am adamantly opposed to the entire process. Mr. Stephen J. Cox being confirmed is typical of many of the past Alaska Attorneys General who have come here and are immediately allowed to be in charge of all Assistant Attorneys General of whom there are up to 600 or more doing his bidding. This percentage of Alaska Assistant Attorneys General continues to probably be the highest in the U.S. The same is true of Alaska Active Out of State licensed Alaska Attorneys. Noted is the fact that Alaska has more oil development than Texas but Alaska Bar Association has less than 3% the number of licensed Texas Bar Association Attorneys.

Alaska Assistant Attorneys General make very high salaries and probably get hefty retirements. They do what they are told by the Alaska Attorney General so they keep their high paying jobs. Alaska Judges also get hefty salaries and retirements. Currently, Alaska public employees are left behind without any defined benefit retirements. I hope this will change with the passage of HB78.

Alaska has a very corrupt and unaccountable system and I apologize that Alaska Bench and Bar are the biggest problem. I have lived for 42 years that getting an Alaska law license is simply a "deal;" it is completely unfair. Mr. Cox rolled into Alaska and was immediately licensed to practice law here by Alaska Bar Association. That tells me all I need to know. I take exception to the entire matter.

It is very worrisome how aligned to President Trump and very powerful national attorneys Mr. Cox is. I was amazed that former U.S. Attorney General William Barr wrote a letter of support of Mr. Cox. This concerns me greatly. I consider Mr. Cox a carpetbagger who will "give away the store" to the oil companies instead of prosecuting them to the fullest extent of the law for the oil taxes we are owed as Alaskans.

Please give a message to Mr. Cox that it is high time we have an ELECTED Alaska Attorney General who will advocate for our interests as Alaskans.

Vote "NO" on the confirmation of Mr. Cox.

Breanna Kakaruk

From: bruce Gordon <btg.gjgrecovery@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2026 6:26 PM
To: Senate Judiciary
Subject: Please vote NO on Steven Cox appointment to AG, he ruled in favor of giving away our voter data.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Breanna Kakaruk

From: Becky Walker <beckywalker75@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2026 5:00 AM
To: Senate Judiciary
Subject: Support for the Confirmation of Stephen Cox as Alaska Attorney General

April 28, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Stephen Cox for Alaska Attorney General. Here are three reasons why I support his confirmation and would ask for your confirmation votes: his overall character, his wide range of experience & connections, and his proven ability from his first 8 months to-date as Attorney General.

In my interactions with Stephen Cox, I've seen he is a man of his word, incredibly hard-working on projects he commits to, and has a real eye for the betterment of our local communities and the state as a whole. I have personally seen him take on a certain large project that required building a volunteer board, lots of fundraising, hiring of quality administrators, etc. And it's obvious in talking with him that it's all about giving of his time and mental resources toward supporting the building up of our local communities and state in honorable ways. He has also encouraged me and others to do the same in a winsome way that makes us want to give of our time and effort. And I believe we need people in leadership positions who have a mindset like his for the support and betterment of our state and the ability to inspire others toward the same end.

I don't think we could ask for an Attorney General with better experience and connections than Stephen Cox. Having worked at the federal level in D.C. for DHS and as US Attorney in Texas, he has great nationwide connections, which could obviously be helpful on so many levels, depending on the matters at hand. Also, I think it's awesome that he has worked for one of our AK Native corporation subsidiaries (under BBNC) since his arrival in AK. So, he's not just coming in with "Lower 48" know-how. He also understands much of the uniqueness of our state.

And finally, his 8 month record as Attorney General to-date makes me want more of what he's already accomplished:

- With the Swickard & Chugach cases, among others, he's shown how he will protect us Alaskans as consumers.
- His protection of "public lands" definitions within ANILCA is huge for protecting our state control from being overtaken by federal control. And he even got 20+ AGs to back us with amicus briefs!
- His work with federal, state, and local officials and even businesses (such as Alaska Airlines) within our state to facilitate drug interdiction encourages me that we're making it harder and harder for drugs to enter our state and take the lives of our residents.
- With the case against the fundraising websites (such as GoFundMe and PayPal, etc.) that have been building pages for Alaska charities without their consent, he's again protecting us and our awesome charities from potential fraud that could harm them financially and even harm their reputations.

I could go on and on, but every time I read the details of cases being handled by Stephen Cox and the Department of Law, I walk away with such appreciation of how he upholds the rule of law, protects Alaska residents, and is helping to shape a more safe, lawful, protective, and honorable state for us.

Becky Walker
Wasilla, AK 99654
Beckywalker75@gmail.com

Mead Treadwell

528 N Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
mead@treadwellalaska.com

April 29, 2026

Senator Matt Claman, Chair
Alaska Senate Judiciary Committee
The Capitol
Juneau, AK
By email: sen.matt.claman@akleg.gov

Dear Senator Claman,

On May 1, your Committee will hold a hearing to consider the confirmation of Stephen J. Cox to serve as Alaska's Attorney General for the remainder of the Governor's current term, seven months. I write in support of his confirmation. Mr. Chairman, as I likely cannot make it to testify, I'm hoping that this letter might be read into the record.¹

I first met Stephen Cox after he moved to Alaska, while he was an attorney for Bristol Bay Industrial. We go to the same church. He has a wonderful family. We have "caroled" together at Christmas, in our neighborhood, in the same tradition we used to do in your neighborhood.

As a person, I believe in his character. As a consumer of legal services, I believe his professional ethics, and work ethic, are of an extremely high standard.

¹ At the time of your hearing, I am hosting Japan's Former Foreign Minister and a delegation from Japan in Cordova for a meeting with Senator Murkowski, community leaders, and philanthropists from Japan and around the United States. Minister Kamikawa has formed a robust "Polar Caucus" in Japan, and we have worked together for 20 years. During that time, besides serving as Minister of Justice (equivalent to our Attorney General) in two cabinets, she has also been Minister of State for Gender Equality and Social Affairs. She is accompanied by the leader of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation which is a major funder of the University of Alaska's science cooperation with Japan at the International Arctic Research Center. Having set up those meetings, I find it difficult to leave them to testify Friday afternoon.

While I am not a lawyer, I follow trends in the law quite closely, especially federal-state relations, criminal law, environmental law and protection of our Constitutional rights. I have written and taught on the Alaska Statehood Act, Law of the Sea, and ANILCA, and have been party to drafting and approving constitutional amendments, international agreements, federal, state and local law and regulation.

I represent the State of Alaska on an interstate Compact for a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution, joined with four other states. I have served as a volunteer chair of a subcommittee of Alaska's Citizens' Advisory Committee on Federal Areas, CACFA, related to federal-state land issues. I am a member of the State Committee on Research at the University of Alaska, and am the Governor's nominee to a forthcoming federal advisory committee on Arctic shipping.

In those assignments, I must work with the Department of Law regardless of who is Attorney General. Every Attorney General has plenty of short-term distractions, but Attorney General Cox has given attention to long-term challenges we face with time, energy, and use of an extensive network of legal scholars in and out of government. He is truly an asset to Alaska.

Encounters I've had with Attorney General Cox speak well of his non-partisan approach, his capability to listen, and his determination to get the best for our State:

- Fighting crime: Our family is victim of a 2021 violent home invasion. The trespasser occupied our home for a rampage which likely took many hours. Rare Alaska Native Art was destroyed. Over 60 pieces of art were smashed, and furniture in almost every room was damaged or destroyed. The Anchorage Police Department worked intensely over several years, with the State crime lab, to find the invader, who later pleaded guilty to felony charges. My frustration, firsthand, was that coordination between our Department of Law and our city in addressing this crime, and a rash of other property crimes in our city was lacking. Stephen made fixing that one of his first priorities. Too much is lost between solid police work, prosecution, sentencing and parole. Attorney General Cox's efforts with Mayor LaFrance have given me hope that our neighborhood can be safe again.
- Constitutional issues: Several meetings I've had with the Attorney General have discussed ways to deal with an unpredictable Administration and Congress on issues related to natural gas project permitting, port construction, Article V equities a State has under the Constitution, and resolving the long-term Statehood Compact issues facing our state, including management of certain lands and management of fish and game in our state. In each of these meetings – many involving work in progress where I can't yet point to a result – the Attorney General has done his homework. He has drawn upon his network of legal scholars across the nation, staff at the

Department of Justice and other states' Attorneys General before he moves out. He is independent from the Administration in power, but respected when he opens those doors. He is clearly prepared to bring Alaskans of different views together, to try to resolve and settle long pending disputes that have challenged our self-determination over many years.

- Alaska experience: I like the fact that Stephen Cox's original work in this state was for the Bristol Bay region. Some of his work also involved complicated North Slope issues. At his company's events, advocacy of sustainable fishing was a regular theme. He is very aware of our unique geography, diversity, and the impossibility of "one size fits all" federal policies for Alaska. I believe you will see this in his work on many issues.

In my 52-year history in Alaska, only once have I seen an Attorney General confirmation rejected by the Legislature. The arguments made then for rejection have no parallel with concerns voiced about Attorney General Cox today. No one who knows him has questioned his honesty, his disposition to hear out (and to try to resolve) disparate views. No one has questioned the depth of his legal experience and scholarship. As an officer of the law, I'm certain that Stephen will follow the laws you pass, whether or not the Governor who appointed him agrees with those laws.

My former colleague in the Hickel Administration, former Attorney General Bruce Botelho, may also testify on this confirmation before you. He may share different views about the Attorney General. I like and respect Bruce, and noted that he crossed party lines to support the nomination of Chief Justice John Roberts based on the experience he'd had working with the Chief Justice on some cases Alaska had brought. I have always remembered what Bruce said September 15, 2005 when he spoke to the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee on the Roberts nomination:

Although I am a life-long Democrat with liberal views on social issues, I support this nomination based on my first-hand experience with Judge Roberts. I believe that he possesses the integrity, intellectual capacity, compassion, and courage to undertake the momentous job of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

He engaged my assistant attorneys general as equals, picking their brains for ideas, facts, and background information. He wanted to learn every detail, including the correct pronunciation of the village names, the structure and role of Native organizations in Alaska, and the geography of our vast state. Meanwhile, he studied the relevant law and began testing with us his analysis and theories of the case. His goal was always to best prepare himself to represent the interests of the State of Alaska.

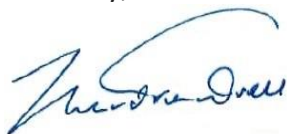
Nothing he said or did ever suggested his personal views on an issue, and I honestly cannot tell you how he would have ruled on our cases if he had faced them as a judge. He clearly considered his job to be to represent Alaska's interests and position to the Supreme Court based on solid legal principles and precedent, not to promote any personal views.

He is modest, respectful, polite, and eminently approachable. He has a remarkable ability to engage people, and seeks to learn from them even as they learn from him. He did not simply take a case and a couple months later send us a product. Rather, he collaborated with us and sought our views and critique at all levels of the project. My staff and I always felt comfortable calling him on his direct line or even at his home, e-mailing, and visiting with him. He challenged us, worked with us, and made us laugh. In the process he made hard work fun and rewarding.

But perhaps Judge Roberts's most striking feature was his deep respect for the law. He was always faithful to the text and context of the law; he demonstrated an astute awareness of his role as an advocate within the limits of the law; his judgment and common sense were exquisite; he knew where to draw the lines and gave his advice and guidance accordingly. But while he was a perfectionist in his own work, he was not rigid in his approach as a lawyer. He followed a natural, collegial process, seeking out and considering a variety of viewpoints and arguments. He did not enter the debate opinionated, but rather maintained a thoughtful and flexible stance. He was always willing to make adjustments as he gained knowledge. He subjected ideas to rigorous examination to reach logical, sound conclusions based on the facts and law.

The last two paragraphs of Bruce's 2005 testimony also fit Attorney General Stephen Cox to a T. Like Bruce, I have the most respect for public officials who listen and learn from divergent views, do their homework, and are not afraid to try to solve lingering problems. I look at Stephen Cox as one of those people, and I believe you will find him to be a counselor and advocate worthy of your respect...and your vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mead Treadwell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "M".

Mead Treadwell

William P. Barr

April 30, 2026

Via Electronic Mail

Hon. Matt Claman
Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
State Capitol Room 429
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Chair Claman:

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,


William P. Barr

**Public Comment to the Alaska Senate State Affairs Committee
Stephen Cox Confirmation as Attorney General**

April 30, 2026

Chair Kaufman, members of the Committee

My name is Thomas Garber. I am a Thirty-year resident of Nikiski, Alaska. I ask you to withhold confirmation of Stephen Cox as Alaska's Attorney General.

My concern is not political. It is constitutional.

On April 2nd of this year, Attorney General Cox submitted comments to the Alaska Supreme Court's Criminal Rules Committee opposing proposed amendments to Criminal Rule 6.1 — the rule governing citizens' access to the investigative grand jury. Alaska's Constitution, Article I, Section 8, declares that the grand jury's investigative power *shall never be suspended*. Mr. Cox's comments reveal a troubling pattern: a willingness to use legal sophistication to preserve the substance of an unconstitutional framework while appearing to reform it.

Here is the core problem. Mr. Cox cited a Harvard Law article his personal friend Professor Richard Garnett as his strongest authority — but he cited only half of what it says. That article concludes explicitly that *neither the executive nor the courts* may come between the citizen and the grand juror by screening out petitions. Mr. Cox used that authority to attack the CRC's proposal — while proposing his own alternative that does precisely what his own cited authority forbids. He would simply replace executive gatekeeping with judicial gatekeeping. The robe changes; the gate does not. His proposed mechanism — routing citizen petitions through court-appointed counsel under Administrative Rule 12(e) is circular on its face. AR 12(e) authorizes appointments when *required by existing law*. It does not create the law that does the requiring. He is bootstrapping a procedural rule into a substantive constitutional framework — exactly the kind of expedited, process-bypassing rulemaking his own letter criticizes.

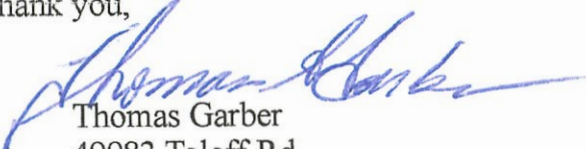
**Public Comment to the Alaska Senate State Affairs Committee
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And his separation-of-powers argument, if applied consistently, condemns SCO 1993 — the very order he defends — more directly than it condemns the CRC's proposal. Because under SCO 1993, the judicial branch secretly negotiated with the executive branch to design a rule governing their relationship. That is the separation-of-powers violation at its genesis.

The Attorney General of Alaska is the state's chief law enforcement officer and its constitutional guardian. That role demands intellectual honesty — especially when the law runs against the office's own institutional interests.

The comments Mr. Cox submitted do not reflect that standard. I respectfully urge this Committee to take that into account.

Thank you,



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