

## Dylan Hitchcock-Lopez

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 2, 2026 3:51 PM  
**To:** House Judiciary  
**Subject:** Please do not confirm temporary Attorney General Stephen Cox

Please do not confirm temporary Attorney General Stephen Cox. He has signed onto over one hundred amicus briefs around the country during his short tenure in office then lied, saying that past AGs had signed onto a similar number. Many of these have no relevance to Alaska but are part of the culture wars being waged by the current national administration. The AG of Alaska should limit their time to working on Alaska-specific issues. Former AG Bruce Bothello has a compelling statement for why you should not confirm this

man. <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59f229bd2aeba5312c87df44/t/69f62dd6768dd6766367d02e/1777741270643/Oral+Testimony+before+Senate+Judiciary.pdf>

Thank you  
Anne Ruggles

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Anne Ruggles

[REDACTED]  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

## Dylan Hitchcock-Lopez

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**From:** Mary Hilcoske [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 2, 2026 2:22 PM  
**To:** House Judiciary  
**Subject:** Do not confirm Cox as AG

It is clear that Mr. Cox does not prioritize focusing on issues specific to Alaska. What candidate for Alaska's AG filed a huge # of Amicus briefs on only Right-wing national issues before he is even confirmed? The obvious conflict of interest relating to his school issues should also disqualify him. We need an Alaskan attorney in this position who cares about carrying out Alaskan laws. Thank you for your rigorous confirmation questions.

Mary Hilcoske  
[REDACTED]  
Anchorage AK

## Dylan Hitchcock-Lopez

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**From:** Ted Krieg [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 2, 2026 2:09 PM  
**To:** House Judiciary  
**Subject:** Reject Steven Cox's nomination to the position of Attorney General of the State of Alaska

May 2, 2026

Dear House Judiciary Committee,

I am requesting that you do not vote to approve Steven Cox's nomination to the position of Attorney General of the State of Alaska. His nomination is not in the best interest of the people of Alaska.

His actions filing amicus briefs representing his views, for causes from outside of Alaska, are a waste of Alaska State resources. The amicus briefs he has filed are his biased opinions, not my opinions or the opinions of the majority of Alaskans. He is using state resources to promote himself into a DC job at the price of Alaska. Has he lived in Alaska for even one year? Please promote a real Alaskan, someone who knows the people of the State of Alaska, to the position. Not an outsider!

His actions, specifically withholding information from the residents of Alaska about the filing of amicus briefs on behalf of the State of Alaska, are not the actions of someone who is working for the residents of Alaska. He has created the position of "solicitor general" and hired a young outside lawyer who is a fellow member of the Federalist Society. The state of Alaska apparently doesn't have the funds to support public education? Yet it will fund a position for a nonresident to promote a political viewpoint? That is unacceptable! If we really need a "solicitor general" hire one of the many qualified, young Alaska lawyers who would be honored to work for their fellow residents of Alaska.

I would like to know if Mr. Cox believes Joe Biden won the 2020 election and furthermore can Donald Trump legally run for president in 2028? I think these questions need to be asked.

As former Attorney General Bruce Botelho testified: "The attorney general of Alaska must be the state's chief legal officer, not its chief cultural warrior. I agree with Botelho's opinion about why Mr. Cox should not be confirmed. He does not represent my views. Does he represent the views of the Legislature? I don't believe Mr. Cox represents the views of the majority of Alaskans. I don't believe he will work for the best interests of all Alaskans if he is promoted to the position of Attorney of the State of Alaska.

Thank You!

Sincerely,

Theodore M. Krieg  
[REDACTED]

## Dylan Hitchcock-Lopez

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**From:** Bob Day [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 2, 2026 11:12 AM  
**To:** House Judiciary  
**Subject:** AG Cox

Please do not confirm this person. Please find a qualified Alaskan individual. Not this bozo, he does not represent my state.

Bob Day

## Dylan Hitchcock-Lopez

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 2, 2026 10:54 AM  
**To:** House Judiciary  
**Subject:** Cox as AG

Please do not let Cox become attorney general. He is an embarrassment to Alaskans who have lived her many years We have had enough people who haven't lived in Alaska many years and have no understanding of our lifestyles and needs. He needs to go find another job. Thanks for listening. Bob Larsen Sent from my iPhone

## Dylan Hitchcock-Lopez

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**From:** Parson Jill [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 2, 2026 8:19 AM  
**To:** House Judiciary  
**Subject:** NO on proposed confirmation of Cox as Alaska's Attorney General

Please look carefully at the actions Temporary AG Cox has taken during his short term in Alaska. Looking at his track record, he has spent an inordinate amount of time filing numerous amicus briefs that have no relevance to Alaska, created a position and hired an attorney who is not from Alaska nor a member of the AK BAR, has low-keyed his position and support of Hillsdale College, a conflict of interest, by criticizing the Anchorage School District for not distributing the US Constitution where Hillsdale opinions were included. And more in his barely one year as a member of the Alaska Bar Association. We can do much better than this.

Do not confirm Cox as attorney general. Alaska cannot afford an attorney who does not focus full time on Alaska issues only.

Thank you for your consideration of my recommendation.

Jill Parson [REDACTED] Big Lake, AK 99652, resident of Alaska for over 54 years

## Dylan Hitchcock-Lopez

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**From:** Francis Adams [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 2, 2026 7:51 AM  
**To:** House Judiciary  
**Subject:** AG confirmation

Please do not confirm Stephen Cox as attorney general. He has not been truthful about his use of amicus briefs.

Thank you.

Francis Adams  
[REDACTED]

## Dylan Hitchcock-Lopez

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**From:** jt.akdude [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 2, 2026 7:22 AM  
**To:** House Judiciary  
**Subject:** AG Cox

I do not believe you should support the confirmation of Mr. Cox as Attorney General. He has a record of filing a flood amicus briefs that reflect his own special interest and has not been working as true representative of Alaska interests.

I find it hard to believe that the Governor is unable to find a long time Alaskan attorney to fill this position.

JT - Anchorage

Sent from a tablet, typed with thumbs. 🙌

**Bruce M. Botelho**  
[REDACTED]  
**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.

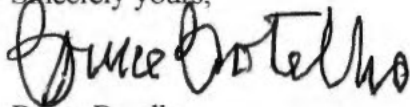
His actions and his very recent admission to the Alaska Bar raise legitimate concerns about whether he fully appreciates the state's distinct legal and political culture.

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

## Dylan Hitchcock-Lopez

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**From:** Heather Beck [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 27, 2026 11:00 AM  
**To:** House Judiciary  
**Subject:** RE: Opposition to the Confirmation of Stephen J. Cox as Attorney General

Heather Beck  
[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, AK 99516

January 27, 2026

Dear Representative Gray,

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 target 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