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**Subject:** Mr. Jason Brune

Dear House Resources Committee Members,

I wish to testify in support of Jason Brune as the Governor's Nominee for Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

I have known Mr. Brune for about 15 years. First as the executive director of Resource Development Council, later as the executive director of the Alaska Miners Association. In those positions he was a very positive and energetic force for these associations, groups which have always focused on the development of Alaska's Resources yet both have a clear charter to first be responsible citizens of Alaska and the United States; to develop where it can be done wisely.

I got to know him much better after he became the Resource Manager for Cook Inlet Region Inc. (CIRI). This in-depth introduction began when Mr. Brune turned to my company (Alaska Earth Sciences) for help and advice on identifying and developing the minerals and coal resources on CIRI lands. Throughout those years of involvement at CIRI, I was impressed not only by his focus to aid CIRI in its efforts to develop its resources but that he was also very aware of the balance that must be maintained with the other resources of the region; fisheries, hunting, subsistence and tourism. He made sure that the goals of his mineral development program did not compromise other resources important to the shareholders of CIRI.

His biology degree has helped him understand both sides of issues that so often confront resource development. The very fact that he chose to focus on biology in his later years of education indicates a strong interest and concern for the natural habitats of Alaska. His work with our company during his tenure at CIRI clearly demonstrated his clear and balanced perspective on the wise use of our lands. His strong leadership skills and his ability to find consensus in diverse groups will certainly be of value to him in this new position.

I endorse Jason Brune as Commissioner for the Department of Environmental Conservation. Thank you for your attention.

Robert M. Retherford, President Alaska Earth Sciences