

Sen. Chris Birch

From: Benjamin Mohr <benmohr@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 23, 2019 10:46 AM
To: Sen. Chris Birch; Sen. John Coghill
Cc: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Lora Reinbold; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Scott Kawasaki; Sen. Jesse Kiehl
Subject: Brune Confirmation

Dear Senator Birch, Senator Coghill, and members of the Senate Resources Committee -

I am writing today in regards to your consideration of the confirmation of Jason Brune to serve Alaska as the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). I've known Jason for about ten years, having the pleasure of working with him as a member and volunteer of an organization he ran, adjacent to him in companies partnered on a project, and for the last three years I've worked directly for him at an Alaska Native Corporation.

Jason's hallmark is his contagious enthusiasm for doing the right things right - most notably in fulfilling Alaska's constitutional obligation to responsibly develop our resources. While some may view Jason simply as a proponent of development, the truth is a little more detailed. Jason is a proponent of *responsible* development - not of development at any cost.

Alaska has some of toughest laws in the world when it comes to protecting our environment - and we should. We live in one of the most amazing places on earth, rich in sustenance and resources. These riches do not need to be in conflict - we can have both resource development and healthy, intact ecosystems. When comparing the environmental and safety protections between Alaska and other resource developing jurisdictions, a reasonable person would see that developing in Alaska does the least harm. Jason's tagline "think globally, develop locally" and his refrains of "nobody does it better than Alaska" reflect this.

I wholeheartedly support Jason's nomination to serve as Commissioner at DEC. I trust that Jason understands the gravity of being entrusted with protecting Alaska's people and environment. Jason's love of this state matches anyone's, his intelligence should never be underestimated, and his care for the people around him is remarkable. Alaska will be well served to have such a good person helping to lead our state.

Thank you for your time,

-Ben Mohr

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