

Sen. Chris Birch

From: Hal <hobig@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2019 12:17 PM
To: Sen. Chris Birch
Subject: Brune confirmation

Dear Senator Birch,

I write to express my concern regarding Gov. Dunleavy's choice of Jason Brune to head the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. As you are aware, Mr. Brune has been executive director of the Resource Development Council, and has worked in public affairs for a former partner in the Pebble Mine project, namely Anglo-American.

While this background may qualify Mr. Brune as an expert in positive public relations for mining interests, the commissioner's position requires a good measure of sincere disinterest, since he will be making permitting decisions on behalf of all Alaskans, hundreds of thousands of whom see Pebble as a direct threat to critical habitat and do not want it built. I have serious doubts Mr. Brune can perform those duties with the requisite objectivity and impartiality. He has been an outspoken advocate for Pebble.

Gov. Dunleavy may desire to see Alaska "open for business," but some enterprises are simply too dangerous to permit. An objective look at the Pebble project should inform a reasoned decision not to grant such permits. I believe Mr. Brune would be incapable of being objective.

There are surely equally or more qualified potential candidates. Granted, another commissioner may come down on the side of Pebble development. So be it. Alaskans should reasonably expect the commissioner's position to be filled by a person not already publicly predisposed to forward the Pebble Project.

In my opinion, Mr. Brune should not be confirmed to this critical position. I would request that my opinion be shared with the full committee.

Thank you and sincerely,

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