

Sen. Chris Birch

From: Mike Heatwole <akheatwole@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2019 3:29 PM
To: Sen. Chris Birch
Subject: DEC Commissioner Jason Brune

Dear Senator Birch,

I write today in support of Jason Brune as Commissioner for the Department of Environmental Conservation. I have known Jason personally and professionally for nearly twenty years. Throughout this time I have found him to be a fierce advocate of responsible development of Alaska's resources for the betterment of our community and our state. He has also been steadfast in defense of our strong permitting system. He coined a phrase that sums him up well - Think Globally, Develop Locally. Meaning, we should develop the resources the world needs to improve its standard of living but do so in a jurisdiction with strong environmental standards.

Jason knows and understands the rigors of our permitting process and will be an ideal candidate to administer these rules fairly.

Anyone who has spent time around Jason cannot help but catch his enthusiasm for Alaska and for doing the right thing. He is professional and takes on assignments with a clear goal of getting the job done.

When I first interacted with Jason professionally, he was assigned responsibility for administering the Alaska Mineral and Energy Resource Education Fund (AMEREF) and I was on the board. He was passionate about making sure Alaska's students had a better understanding of Alaska's tremendous resources. We now know AMEREF as Alaska Resource Education. Jason was diligent and went on from there to running the Resource Development Council of Alaska. His reputation and knowledge have put him in front of your committee today.

Last, as passionate as he is about responsible resource development he is ten times as passionate about his family. We've spent many hours on the sidelines of soccer fields and Jason was always stepping forward to help out. And that's Jason. Stepping forward to get things done because that's what we do in a community.

Alaska will be well served by Jason Brune as our next commissioner for DEC. If you have any questions about Jason, I would be more than happy to speak with you about him.

Regards,

Mike Heatwole