

Sen. Chris Birch

From: Tom Harris <a.tom.harris@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2019 3:24 PM
To: Sen. Chris Birch; Sen. John Coghill
Cc: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Lora Reinbold; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Scott Kawasaki; Sen. Jesse Kiehl
Subject: Nomination of Commissioner of DEC Jason Brune Confirmation

Dear Senator Chris Birch, Senator John Coghill and Members of the Senate Resource Committee

My name is Tom Harris and while I have the honor and privilege of serving as CEO of Knikatnu, Inc. the ANCSA Village Corporation for the Knik/Wasilla area, a Director of Cape Fox Corporation, the ANCSA Village Corporation for the Saxman Community, near Ketchikan and past President Alaska Village Initiatives, Inc., my testimony here is put forth as an individual on my own behalf.

I write to recommend for your consideration the nomination of Mr. Jason Brune to the post of Commissioner of Department of Environmental Conservation.

While there may be many vocal detractors, I challenge those detractors to examine the entire fields of experience represented in Mr. Brune to find someone as experienced in representing the interests of all Alaskans. While his resume is clear on many issues I bring forth for your consideration these areas that many not be as well known:

A. Mr. Brune has served as Board Member of Alaska's first and largest Tribal Conservation District Tyonek whose mission is "to conserve, enhance, and encourage the wise use of the natural resources. ",

- While most areas of the Kenai Peninsula have seen a dramatic reduction in wildlife harvest resources, thanks to their Tribal Conservation District, Tyonek has enjoyed a resurgence in wildlife harvests.
- Tyonek is the first of what are 23 new Tribal Conservation Districts statewide in Alaska, that for the first time are bringing to Alaska millions of federal dollars annually to restore and rejuvenate Alaska wildlife resources, at no cost to the State.
- No one in any previous administration, has the knowledge or the experience of Mr. Brune in understanding how all Alaskans can benefit from Tribal Conservation Districts not as competing interests with the State of Alaska but completing interests with the State of Alaska and all Alaskans.
- Federal Funds available only to Tribal Conservation Districts are not restricted to ANCSA lands but can be used anywhere in cooperative agreements with and permission by the State. Governor Dunleavy's nomination of Mr. Jason Brune, brings that knowledge, leadership and trust experience he has earned into the State, to support important environmental resources efforts important to Alaskans that would otherwise go unfunded.

B. Mr. Brune has served as a Key Management member of Cook Inlet Region, Inc., in the particular position of maintaining positive and environmentally sound relationships with all of the Village Corporations in the Cook Inlet Region. I have had the privilege of know Mr. Brune as a professional working to protect not only the legitimate business interests of both the surface estate owners, the Village Corporations and the subsurface estate owner CIRI, in the development of lands including gravel pits. In virtually every instance, Mr. Brune has gone out of his way to ensure that we fairly and equitably address the environmental concerns in every transaction. At no time were profits considered above environmental safety. His experience in working with development industries such as mining, helped us better prepare for not only a safe and sane development but also what bonding and evaluations has to happen after to return the property to an environmentally safe and stable status. Having CIRI and Mr. Brune in our corner allowed us to make good and sound decisions, for the benefit of all.

I stand in support of this nomination, in large part because I have come to know Mr. Brune as a man of integrity and honesty, who strives to be fair and equitable in all tasks before him and to all he represents. I know him to be a ethical and diligent leader who seeks only the best for those he works with and for.

I urge your support for the confirmation of Mr. Jason Brune as Commission of Alaska Department of Environment Conservation. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Thank you,

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