

Commissioner Brune Letters of Support Set Two

1. Jeff Baker
2. Stephen Grabacki, Presedent and Certified Fisheries Professional
3. James Adler
4. Rod Hoffman
5. Pete Stokes
6. Dave Harbour
7. Ray Kukowski
8. Rick Rogers
9. Carl Portman

From: Baker, Jeff
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 9:25 AM
To: House Resources <House.Resources@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support for Jason Brune

House Resources Committee,

I am in favor of the committee confirming Jason Brune as the commissioner of ADEC.

Thank you,
Jeff Baker

Jeff Baker, PE
Michael Baker International

rom: Stephen Grabacki <

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 11:24 AM

To: Rep. John Lincoln <Rep.John.Lincoln@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>;
Rep. Grier Hopkins <Rep.Grier.Hopkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Hannan <Rep.Sara.Hannan@akleg.gov>;
Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep.
David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher
<Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Rasmussen <Rep.Sara.Rasmussen@akleg.gov>

Subject: Support for Jason Brune

Good day -- I enthusiastically support the confirmation of Jason Brune as Commissioner of Alaska
Department of Environmental Conservation.

I have known Mr. Brune for many years, and have always admired and respected his intelligence,
integrity, insights, fairness, and competence. He clearly understands and supports ADEC's mission and
staff, and is ideally qualified to lead Department.

Further, Mr. Brune has a strong appreciation and vision for Alaska's current and future development of
both renewable and extractive natural resources, as well as the protection of our environment, for
which Alaska is an exemplar to the world.

Please confirm Commissioner Jason Brune right away. Thank you for your attention. Best regards, --
Steve

Stephen T. (Steve) Grabacki, FP-C
President, and Certified Fisheries Professional
GRAYSTAR Pacific Seafood, Ltd.
Anchorage, Alaska
99510-0506 USA

From: Betty Adler
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2019 1:18 PM
To: LIO Anchorage <Lio.Anchorage@akleg.gov>
Subject: Re: Jason Brune, Nominee for DEC Commissioner

I have know Jason Brune for many years and personally and professionally know him to be an honest man. Jason has the education and experience to administer the laws and regulation as the Commissioner of DEC. I strongly support his nomination. He will do a great service to our State in this position.

James Adler
Anchorage, AK 99516

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: AKHOUSE.ORG <akhouse@akhouse.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 7:46 PM
To: Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>
Subject: You got a message "Confirmation of Jason Brune"

From
Subject: Confirmation of Jason Brune

Message Body:
Rep. Tarr,

I have worked for industry and environmental consulting in Alaska since 1981. I have obtained numerous discharge permits and (Oil Spill Response and Contingency Plans (OSRCPs) from ADEC. ADEC does what it is legally mandated to do – process permits and OSRCPs according to the rules created by the Legislature and clarified by ADEC's publicly reviewed regulations.

I've been listening to the ongoing assault on Mr. Brune's integrity and the demonstrable complete ignorance of what ADEC's legally mandate is. Mr. Brune's opponents claim he is unqualified because he was formerly an employee working for an organization that had proposed the Pebble Mine. They apparently believe that Mr Brune could personally influence whether a Pebble Project gets ADEC permits. They are mistaken. I have been in adjudications and suits with ADEC anytime they deviated from the legislated authorities. These commenters may be confused by the Obama Administration's use of 401c to prevent Pebble's' ability to be follow the normal process of EIS and then permitting. This was a Federal Process not a State one. IF and ONLY IF the Pebble Project can demonstrate it meets the all legal requirements for environmental protection set by ADEC , would it be allowed to proceed by ADEC. A Court would correct any deviation from this narrow path.

ADEC's mission is to carry our the laws the Legislature created, and the regulations ADEC created to describe how it will carry out those directions from the Legislature. It is not to follow the emotional cries of public opposition. Permitting is a legal process, not an emotional one.

The best candidate for any and all State employees, including Commissioners, is honesty. The mandate for all of them is to carry out the legal mandates created by the Legislature. I believe Mr Brune is an honest man and therefor the preferred candidate as Commissioner for ADEC.

Where is the balance between legal mandate, honest service, and the emotional mob in the political arena? I encourage you to take the honest path and approve Mr Brune as Commissioner of ADEC.

Rod Hoffman, PhD, Ecology

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This e-mail was sent from Representative GERAN TARR's legislative website

From: Pete Stokes

Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 10:15 AM

To: Rep. John Lincoln <Rep.John.Lincoln@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Grier Hopkins <Rep.Grier.Hopkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Hannan <Rep.Sara.Hannan@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Rasmussen <Rep.Sara.Rasmussen@akleg.gov>

Subject: Approve Jason Brune as DEC Commissioner

Committee Chairs Tarr and Lincoln and House Resource Committee Members,

I support Jason Brune as DEC Commissioner.

Brune is educated in Biology and has worked in a variety of roles including as Resource Development Council's Executive Director that promotes the responsible development of all of Alaska's resources, including the oil and gas, mining, timber, tourism, and fisheries industries.

Brune has the interests of Alaskans at heart in working for development of high paying jobs for future generations of Alaska.

I look forward to your approval of Jason Brune's nomination as DEC Commissioner.

Regards,
Pete Stokes

Anchorage, AK 99517

Testimony for the Alaska House of Representatives Resource Committee

On March 15, 2019

By

Dave Harbour, Regulatory Commission of Alaska (Ret.)

Dear Chairwoman Tarr and Members of the House Resources Committee:

It is good to be with you again and this allows me to express my appreciation to you for your courtesy during the audio challenges we shared when I recently offered you testimony on SJR 7.

Today, we meet as you evaluate the confirmation qualifications of DEC Commissioner Jason Brune whom Governor Mike Dunleavy has appointed to the DEC Commissioner position.

As a former state regulator and personal and business reference I endorse his confirmation. Having known Jason a great part of his adult life, I've always been inspired by his generosity, his integrity, his cheerful and optimistic attitude and his professional competence. Commissioner Brune is one of the great sons of Alaska in whom you can be proud.

More substantively, I offer you this compelling logic to reinforce your decision to confirm his appointment:

Commissioner Brune's extensive biological and natural resource management background perfectly qualifies him as Alaska's environmental custodian from both 1. Constitutional and 2. Statutory perspectives.

1. **Constitutional:** The powerful democrats and republicans considering Alaska's Constitution and petition to become the 49th state voted admittance in 1958, followed by President Eisenhower's July 7 signature on the Statehood Bill authorizing admittance to the Union on January 3, 1959. The biggest argument against statehood was fear Alaskans had insufficient economic strength to manage the large, far North territory. The biggest and prevailing argument supporting statehood was our plebiscite-approved constitution that relied upon natural resource wealth production in the public interest, using sustained yield and other reasonable management guidelines. It is an **unassailable fact** that Alaska would not have been granted statehood without the bi partisan agreement among the President, Congress, Alaskan voters and Alaskan leaders in the state Constitution's reasonable resource development linchpin. In a bi partisan spirit, we recently lamented the passing of republican Constitutional Convention member **Jack Coghill** and continue to celebrate the life of Convention member **Vic Fischer**, a respected democrat.
- Article 8, Sec. 1. ...policy of the State to encourage the ... development of its resources ... maximum use consistent with the public interest.
- Article 8, Sec. 2. The legislature shall provide for the utilization, development, and conservation of all natural resources belonging to the State including land and waters, for the maximum benefit of its people.

- Article 8. Other sections provide for natural resource development leases and “reasonable” conditions to protect other resources consistent with the public interest.

I believe a number of the anti-confirmation communications directed at our Legislature have come from organized special interest sources dependent for fundraising and crisis generation on attacking Alaska’s constitutional dependence on reasonable resource development. Reasonable development is achieved by our Legislature’s statutory (and Administration’s regulatory) constitutional responsibilities to process natural resource lease and permit applications in a reasonable way—not to prejudge them or deny applicants due process. Commissioner Brune’s background and integrity prepare him better than any other Alaskan than I know to receive your confirmation blessing for the awesome, DEC management responsibility. Article 3, Sec. 26 outlines qualifications for Brune’s appointment and confirmation. He meets those qualifications. He would never be “removed” from office for “causes” raised by the many unjustified attacks on his integrity. Accordingly, he should not be denied confirmation for “false causes” and orchestrated attacks. His natural resource work in the past — along with his rigid moral compass — qualifies him all the more for the DEC position, not less.

2. **Statutory.** The Department of Natural Resources provides permitting and leasing opportunities consistent with the Constitution (<http://dnr.alaska.gov/homepage/online services.htm>). The Department of Environmental Conservation’s contributions to permitting and leasing “due process”, balances Alaska’s Constitutional reliance on natural resource development by, “*Conserving, improving, and protecting Alaska’s natural resources and environment to enhance the health, safety, economic, and social well-being of Alaskans.*” (<https://dec.alaska.gov/>). I am confident — as I believe you can be — that Commissioner Brune will faithfully provide the balance in natural resource policy to secure the maximum public interest result for our fellow citizens.

Conclusion

Senator Stevens along with democrat and republican governors over the years have cautioned against the loud voices of anti-resource development that would defy “reasonable resource development” as the bi partisan assembly of state and national leaders in 1958 envisioned.

When writing a natural resource related speech for former Governor Egan 35 years ago, he instructed me to include reference to “predatory” politicians in Washington.

Senator Stevens was heartbroken many times over the years by refusal of the Congress to support the 1002 area commitments democrat Senators Jackson and Tsongas had made to him in 1980. In a December 21, 2005 U.S. Senate floor speech he gave one of his final indictments of uninformed, opponents of Alaska’s natural resource based Constitution and the subsequent ANILCA legislation:

We know this Arctic. You don’t know the Arctic at all. They will tell you, as I will tell you, that it is 2,000 acres of Arctic. Is that worth this fight? Did I bring this fight on? It was the minority in the House that refused to vote for the rule that we passed on the reconciliation bill. This provision was in the reconciliation bill. The majority voted for it. Every other time it has been brought up, except once, the minority has filibustered keeping the commitment made to me by two Democratic Senators in 1980, Senator Jackson and Senator Tsongas. They wrote the amendment; I didn’t. They wrote the amendment that kept this area open for oil and gas leases.

Chairwoman Tarr, I close by encouraging the Legislature to be more mindful of Commissioner Brune's lifelong love for, work in and allegiance to Alaska and her Constitution than to baseless predatory attacks on a proven Alaskan leader who is wedded to Alaska's constitutional principles of reasonable and balanced resource development.

Finally, I believe those of us who have valued the long, dedicated service of the former DEC Commissioner Hartig in different administrations will likewise appreciate the dedicated, continuing tenure of Commissioner Brune.

Respectfully,

A stylized, handwritten-style signature of the name "Dave" in a bold, cursive font.

Dave Harbour

(Harbour is a 48 year Alaska resident; a Commissioner Emeritus, NARUC; Chairman Emeritus, Alaska Oil & Gas Congress; former President, American Bald Eagle Foundation and the Alaska Press Club and Chairman of the Alaska Council on Economic Education, the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, and the Hugh O'Brian Youth Foundation-Alaska. He is a former Television Commissioner of the Anchorage Olympic Organizing Committee; a former MOA Heritage Land Bank Commissioner and Anchorage Bicentennial Commissioner.)

From: Ray Kukowski <Ray.Kukowski@akleg.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 11:26 AM
To: Rep. John Lincoln <Rep.John.Lincoln@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>;
Rep. Grier Hopkins <Rep.Grier.Hopkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Hannan <Rep.Sara.Hannan@akleg.gov>;
Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep.
David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher
<Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Rasmussen <Rep.Sara.Rasmussen@akleg.gov>
Subject: Jason Brune Confirmation Hearing

March 25, 2019

Representative John Lincoln, Chair
Representative Geran Tarr, Chair
House Resources Committee
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Support for Jason Brune

Dear Representatives

I sincerely urge you to support Jason Brune to serve as Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

I have known Jason for approximately 15 years and have always been impressed with his knowledge of issues and true love of Alaska. With the multiple positions Jason has held and his formal schooling he has the experience and knowledge to be the Commissioner of ADEC. Alaska is a resource State and I believe Mr. Brune with his sound science background together with his work experience would make an excellent choice for this position.

Again, I urge a confirmation of Mr. Brune as Commissioner of ADEC

Sincerely,

Raymond Kukowski
Anchorage, AK 99516

From: Rick Rogers

Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 5:33 PM

To: Rep. John Lincoln <Rep.John.Lincoln@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>;
Rep. Grier Hopkins <Rep.Grier.Hopkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Hannan <Rep.Sara.Hannan@akleg.gov>;
Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep.
David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher
<Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Rasmussen <Rep.Sara.Rasmussen@akleg.gov>
Cc: Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Sen. Cathy Giessel
<Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>

Subject: Confirmation of Jason Brune for Commissioner DEC

Co-chairs Andy Josephson, Geran Tarr and members of the House Resources Committee:

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Jason Brune as the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation. I have known and worked with Mr. Brune since the nineties and can personally attest to his high level of integrity, intelligence and personal character. Jason has a diverse background with a foundation in biological sciences and an understanding of Alaska's natural resource dependent economy. Jason supports the rule of law and the fair adjudication of proposed projects based on objective and consistent science based standards. Such an approach is exactly what Alaska needs to protect the environment and public health while growing and diversifying our resource dependent economy.

I have the utmost confidence that Mr. Brune will discharge his sworn duties as DEC Commissioner in the best interest of the citizens of Alaska.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Rick Rogers, House District 28, Anchorage

From: Carl Portman
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 5:57 PM
To: Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>
Subject: Brune Confirmation

Dear Chairman Tarr:

I am writing to support the confirmation of Jason Brune as Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. I have known Mr. Brune on a professional and personal basis for 20 years, and have high regard for his honesty, intelligence, integrity, fairness, and competence. He is passionate about Alaska and does whatever job or responsibility before him with great energy and integrity. These traits make him an excellent choice for Commissioner of DEC.

As Commissioner of DEC, Mr. Brune will follow the law and due process set out before him. In the past, with his Anglo American hat on, Mr. Brune advocated for the Pebble Project. However, in his new role, he will serve as an impartial commissioner carrying out the mission of the department, including protection of our environment.

Please confirm Commissioner-designee Jason Brune. Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion.

Regards,

Carl Portman
Anchorage, AK

