

Commissioner Designee Jason Brune Letters of Opposition – March 25th, 2019

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Testimony from Frances Brann, March 15th 2019
Sitka, [REDACTED]

I have lived in Alaska since 1975 first in the interior and now in Sitka. I love and cherish this state. We have so much; we have such rich culture and such an opportunity to continue to support ourselves with world class renewable resources, commercial fishing and tourism. We should not appoint a commissioner of DEC who is obviously pro Pebble mine, and has a documented history of supporting the Pebble Partnership and the large scale commercial mining industry. This enormous mine is of such a scale and in such a sensitive, significant wild salmon habitat that this project will jeopardize our commercial sport and subsistence fishing in Bristol bay. This is not just an Alaskan problem: we have tourists from around the world; we sell our wild Sockeye salmon around the globe and if we poison our salmon, other animals as well as humans, will eat the fish and carry the heavy metal contamination around the world. The economic and environmental costs of permitting this mine are just too high a risk. More importantly appointing a commissioner who is not neutral on this issue and would almost certainly give Pebble mine a green light. Although I would like to see an environmentalist appointed commissioner, I realize that it is more reasonable to expect a neutral person. Jason Brunc is a champion of large scale mining; he is not neutral, and he should not be appointed commissioner of the department of ENVIRONMENTAL conservation.

From: Katie Lloyd [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2019 8:10 PM
To: House Resources <House.Resources@akleg.gov>
Subject: I oppose the nomination of Jason Brune for DEC

Hello-

I am a south Anchorage mom, avid fisherman, and daughter of a Pennsylvania Fish and Game warden. Growing up on the east coast I have seen the decimation of fish runs first-hand. It's widely known and cautioned, in my home town on the shores of Lake Erie, that you need to watch your consumption of the fish because of toxicity. There was a period of time when you wouldn't dare eat anything from there. It is my deep, strong belief that a non-renewable resource developed by a FOREIGN mine should NEVER come before a renewable resource benefiting ALASKA and ALASKANS. This man has skin in the game and that's NOT OK.

As a committed Alaskan resident, business owner, fisherman, employer and tax payer I would be FURIOUS if you hire a man who carved a Halloween pumpkin with the word's "Pebble is Back" on it to be our DEC!!! We need someone who is unbiased! The conflict of interest is blinding!! Please listen to the people! This is a corrupt appointment!!

For the record, I VEHEMENTLY oppose Jason Brune's nomination.

Sincerely,
Katie Lloyd
Anchorage

From: Johnse Ostman
To: House Resources
Subject: Oppose Jason Brune for ADEC Commissioner
Date: Friday, March 15, 2019 6:16:48 PM

To whom it may concern.

As an Alaskan, a commercial fisherman, and a hydrologist who has spent years working in Southeast, Southwest, and Bristol Bay Alaska I am very concerned about any resource development that may adversely affect water quality and fisheries. Jason Brune's past suggests he will not be a neutral decision maker with respect to Pebble and/or other large resource development projects that have the potential to decimate culturally significant and renewable resources solely to benefit his corporate sponsors. Never should the fox be invited to tend the hen house and Jason Brune is that Fox.

I strongly oppose Brune's confirmation as ADEC Commissioner and respectfully ask the Alaska Legislature to reject his appointment as he is unfit to lead such a critical department.

Sincerely,
Johnse Ostman

[REDACTED]
Anchorage AK 99517
[REDACTED]

From: Lynn Van Vactor
To: House Resources
Subject: Please vote no
Date: Friday, March 15, 2019 6:29:30 PM

Jason Brune is not an appropriate nominee for Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Mr. Brun's motto to "Think Globally and Develop locally" shows a total disconnect to the need for protection of Alaskan resources. One only needs to look globally at the destruction of vast fisheries (Pacific Coast Salmon, North Atlantic Salmon, Norway's fisheries) to realize that "Thinking Globally" is a poor method of leadership and a formidable disaster in stewardship let alone conservation.

As Alaskans priding ourselves on wild well managed fisheries and somewhat balanced development we need to learn from global & local mistakes and protect the last remaining fisheries resource in the world.

I believe that Mr. Brune's track record of mineral development will jeopardize fisheries conservation and Alaska's renewable resources in exchange for a toxic pit that Alaska can not afford to maintain into perpetuity.

Please vote NO on Mr. Brune's confirmation.

Sincerely,
Lynn Van Vactor
[REDACTED]
Dillingham, Alaska
99576

Sent from my iPhone

From: beaudins@gci.net [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2019 6:38 PM
To: House Resources <House.Resources@akleg.gov>
Subject: traitors in our midst.

It looks like Brune will get approved since all the people I talk to don't want this to happen. Some of us are not stupid and not greedy, so we are against this confirmation. I can only hope that the people who are in charge of the pebble mine, the engineers and corporate officers are required to sign a contract that requires them to hand over to the state money in an amount equal to their net worth in the event that there is a disruption of our salmon fishery. Since the fisherman's nets will be worthless, this seems like a fair offer. After all, if there is no danger, they should not worry. If there is any danger at all, why would sane people consider this?

Of course, I know the answer. Money is the new God and they all want to go to heaven.

We are at a turning point in this state and this country. Democracy may have failed. I feel bad about that, but it is a smaller loss than the loss of our planet. In the end we can try eating gold and drinking oil.

Mark Beaudin

From: Steve Albert
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2019 2:27 PM
To: House Resources <House.Resources@akleg.gov>
Subject: Jason Brune Nomination

I am a retired Fisheries Biologist with ADF&G with years of experience with water quality and resource management. I have extreme concern of Mr. Jason Brune becoming DEC commissioner. The basis of my concern is Mr. Brune's strong support of the current Pebble Mine Project proposal. His support of this project is a clear example of his lack of experience and judgement. The Pebble Mine Project, as proposed and supported by Mr. Brune, is a disaster waiting to happen. There are so many aspects that could fail and endanger valuable fish habitat, wildlife habitat, and water quality throughout the entire watershed. The people associated with this project are outsiders and have nothing to lose if the dam fails or a culvert collapses or a myriad of other things could go wrong. In my 27 years of fish and wildlife work with ADF&G, there has never been a project proposed that would potentially impact valuable fish and wildlife resources more than this one. Based upon the project proposal and all the other versions going back 15-20 years, nobody has been able to come up with a proposal that would deal with all the potential sources of on-the-ground or instream failures. The man you are considering for DEC commissioner is not impartial, based on the fact that prior to his nomination for DEC Commissioner, he was in support of the project. He has insufficient educational experience or professional experience that could ensure the public that Alaska's water quality, fish habitat, and wildlife habitat would be considered and protected in our state. By placing this gentleman in charge of DEC without any significant demonstrated prior water quality management experience, you will be placing at risk those values that will affect thousands of people downstream in Bristol Bay, as well as statewide. In addition, Bristol Bay is one of the most valuable fishery and water quality resources in Alaska. I strongly urge you to do the right thing for Alaska and reject Mr. Brune for DEC Commissioner. You must find someone with less bias and more proven experience in water quality management and natural resources protection. If he is approved, this action will place valuable public resources at extraordinary great risk.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

From: Guy Archibald
Sent: Saturday, March 16, 2019 4:28 PM
To: House Resources <House.Resources@akleg.gov>
Subject: Comment for Brune nomination

All,

Please accept this comment on behalf of myself, Guy Archibald of [REDACTED]

I have met with Mr. Brune and found him to be evasive and defensive when asked about specific issues I raised about the abuse of discretion by ADEC that has led the agency to ignore federal law, state of Alaska statutes and its own guidance to allow unfettered acid mine drainage from the Niblack Project on Prince of Wales. He asked and I provided the specifics. I was then ignored. I then submitted an official public records request for documents related to any existing discharge permit for this project. The 10 days have come and gone in violation of state law.

This man represents a liability to the state of Alaska as a Commissioner. If ADEC cannot and will not protect the public trust, then I suggest the Governor save the state tons of money by giving back NPDES primacy to the EPA. The public trust would be much more secure than under a Brune agency.

Please vote no.

Guy Archibald

-----Original Message-----

From: Kaila Buerger

Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2019 1:31 PM

To: House Resources <House.Resources@akleg.gov>

Subject: Public Comment Jason Brune

Dear Representatives,

I want you to think deeply on your choice of who to elect as the individual for the position of protection of our Alaskan waters and sustainable resources. Please consider opposing Jason Brune. He has a history of too much involvement with mining, drilling, and lack of environmental concern. I stand for the land, resources, and purity of our State. These things take priority overall because we can not survive as a human race without them. We have notoriously take them for granted, and looked back in remorse and regret for the destructive choices we have made. These choices come from our leaders who put those into power who should not be in power. We must keep the important and fragile factors of our planet in mind when we elect an individual to protect them. Jason Brune does not have enough neutrality to be able to make objective decisions for the best environmental interest of our state. It would be a huge mistake to elect Jason Brune. Let's bring neutrality and honesty into our political system. Now more than ever, we NEED to elect someone with the BEST interest of our earth at heart. Money, mining, drilling, oil, and big business talk loudly..... but it is time to listen to other voices if we plan to have our amazing state continue to thrive and sustain. Thank you.

With high hopes

Kaila Buerger - lifelong Alaskan resident, Bristol Bay fishermen of 18 years.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Kristin Carpenter
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2019 9:28 PM
To: House Resources <House.Resources@akleg.gov>
Subject: oppose Jason Brune as DEC Commissioner

Hello House Resources Committee Members,

I'm writing to express my opposition to confirming Jason Brune as Alaska's DEC Commissioner. Our organization is a past DEC grantee, we've received Section 319 funds for work in mitigating stormwater pollution.

The Dept. of Environmental Conservation is responsible for a large portfolio of water-related programs that have the goal of safeguarding Alaska's water quality, which benefits many forms of fishing, drinking water, and remote Alaska village sanitation.

Through our work with stormwater pollution, small spill response, and water quality in salmon streams, we're familiar with several of the programs that ADEC manages, and the responsibilities expected of a Commissioner.

Nothing I've seen in Jason Brune's qualifications seem to match with these program management responsibilities.

I oppose Jason Brune's confirmation as DEC Commissioner because of the lack of experience with protecting water quality for all of Alaska's resources, not just a single industry.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kristin Carpenter

Kristin S. Carpenter | Executive Director
Copper River Watershed Project
web www.copperriver.org

Upriver and down, salmon are common ground

From: Kate Crump! [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2019 6:39 PM
To: House Resources <House.Resources@akleg.gov>
Subject: Testimony against Jason Brune confirmation

Hi, Thank you for this opportunity. I am Kate Crump, representing the Bristol Bay based business, Frigate Adventure Travel, a sportfishing outfitter employing four people and bringing over 100 tourists to the region each season. I am testifying to strongly oppose Jason Brune's confirmation as Commissioner of Environmental Conservation. Confirming Jason Brune would be a conflict of interest based on his past affiliations with the Pebble Partnership and the mining industry. He cannot be impartial in making decisions related to the Pebble Mine as evidenced by many of his public statements and these past affiliations. His appointment would be unethical. Furthermore, the federal permitting process has not been fair or transparent and we cannot trust Alaska's process to someone like Jason Brune.

Also, the proposed Pebble Mine is a massive mistake waiting to happen. Our company also operates in Oregon and we are well aware of the danger of trading our natural resource of salmon for industry's gain as evidenced by the yearly shut down of salmon fisheries up and down the West Coast. Much of Alaska experienced those closures last summer too. Bristol Bay is the last wild salmon fishery left in the world. It would be wrong to risk this for the gain of a mining company. Please do not make the unethical confirmation of Jason Brune. Thank you.

Kate Crump
Frigate Adventure Travel
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: KJ Herman [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, March 15, 2019 6:48 PM

To: House Resources <House.Resources@akleg.gov>

Subject: Jason Brune confirmation

Having listened to testimony and having read up on Mr. Brune, it is overwhelmingly obvious that there is a huge conflict of interest with him being appointed to head the DEC. Thank you. KJ Herman, Kodiak

Sent from my iPhone

From: jonathan hoysock [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2019 8:39 PM
To: House Resources <House.Resources@akleg.gov>
Subject: Opposition to Jason Brune

Jason Brune is not fit to serve in the DEC. It is an extreme conflict of interest. It is well known that he has ties with pebble. I couldn't leave a voice comment due to the overwhelming amount of calls, also in opposition to him, which is reassuring, yet I know what type of political corruption we face in the state of Alaska, and I hope the voice of the people is heard. I rely on the salmon in Bristol Bay to make a living. Salmon are the foundation of the entire ecosystem in Bristol Bay. I say NO to Pebble advocate, Jason Brune. I will fight for Bristol Bay until my end.

Thank you,

Jonathan Hoysock

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From: Fr. Juvenal [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2019 6:42 PM
To: House Resources <House.Resources@akleg.gov>
Subject: Brune

My name is Archimandrite Juvenal Repass. I am a priest of the Orthodox Church. I resided in Kodiak from 2008 to 2014 and I served in various parishes in the Kodiak archipelago. During that time I got to know quite a few fishermen, and I still have many friends in Alaska. Currently I'm working as an Orthodox Christian Missionary in Guatemala. I am calling only on my own behalf - I am not calling as an official representative of the Orthodox Church. I think that it would be completely insane to put Mr. Brune in a position where he will be able to promote the advancement and approval of the pebble mine, which everyone knows perfectly well should not be built, because of the risks inherent in it.

Jesus said, "what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world but loses his own soul?" A few tons of silver and gold is not worth the cost of Bristol Bay. Those who vote for something that has a great probability of being harmful to the Bristol Bay fisheries which support many people and supply their food and livelihood, will answer for it at Judgement Day.
Archimandrite Juvenal

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

From: Katie Lloyd [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2019 8:10 PM
To: House Resources <House.Resources@akleg.gov>
Subject: I oppose the nomination of Jason Brune for DEC

Hello-

I am a south Anchorage mom, avid fisherman, and daughter of a Pennsylvania Fish and Game warden. Growing up on the east coast I have seen the decimation of fish runs first-hand. It's widely known and cautioned, in my home town on the shores of Lake Erie, that you need to watch your consumption of the fish because of toxicity. There was a period of time when you wouldn't dare eat anything from there. It is my deep, strong belief that a non-renewable resource developed by a FOREIGN mine should NEVER come before a renewable resource benefiting ALASKA and ALASKANS. This man has skin in the game and that's NOT OK.

As a committed Alaskan resident, business owner, fisherman, employer and tax payer I would be FURIOUS if you hire a man who carved a Halloween pumpkin with the word's "Pebble is Back" on it to be our DEC!!! We need someone who is unbiased! The conflict of interest is blinding!! Please listen to the people! This is a corrupt appointment!!

For the record, I VEHEMENTLY oppose Jason Brune's nomination.

Sincerely,
Katie Lloyd
Anchorage

From: Jim Stearns
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 9:32 AM
To: House Resources <House.Resources@akleg.gov>
Subject: DEC

Dear Ms.Tarr and Mr. Lincoln and members of the committee:

Please consider the overwhelming resistance to the nomination of Mr. Brune for DEC commissioner. While he may be a fine person, he is indeed a fox guarding the chicken coop when it comes to our most pressing environmental issue, Pebble.

As Leonard Cohen once sang, "Everybody knows the dice are loaded." Please make us proud to be Alaskans who stand with integrity in government.

Jim Stearns

-----Original Message-----

From: Dave [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, March 15, 2019 6:37 PM

To: House Resources <House.Resources@akleg.gov>

Subject: Oppose confirmation of Jason Brune as Alaska Commissioner of Environmental Conservation

Legislators:

As a long time resident of rural Alaska (Kenny Lake, in the Copper River Basin), I would like to submit a comment for consideration at the confirmation hearings for Jason Brune, proposed to be the Alaska Commissioner of Environmental Conservation. In a democracy it is important that government officials represent the will of the people, not the will of the monied and industrial interests. Jason Brune's history indicates that, were he to be confirmed as Commissioner, he would think with and speak for the industrial interests behind the Pebble mine. The people of Alaska, however, have indicated in many ways that they oppose the Pebble mine. I urge you to reject Jason Brune for Commissioner of Environmental Conservation, since he has proved himself to be closely tied to one side of this critical issue, and therefore unable to think with and speak for the people of Alaska.

Thank you.

—David T. Wellman

From: slvreagle@gci.net [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2019 9:37 PM
To: House Resources <House.Resources@akleg.gov>
Subject: Public Testimony - Jason Brune - Do Not Support Appointment as DEC Commissioner

Jason Brune should not be appointed to be the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. The DEC is the primary state agency responsible for protecting Alaska's air & water quality. DEC is the entity that would issue the state permits necessary to develop Pebble Mine.

It is difficult to imagine a more controversial candidate than Jason Brune to head an organization responsible for protecting Alaska's environment. Jason Brune has spent the last two decades advocating for mining projects in Alaska. **He was literally the spokesman for the Pebble Mine.** DEC is the entity that issues the state permits necessary to develop Pebble Mine. He has absolutely no record of ever favoring environmental protection over resource development. There would be no public faith in the decision process for any resource development project issued permits.

2005 Jason Brune was an employee of Anglo-American
(<https://www.hSDL.org/?view&did=792999>)

2007 - Jason Brune, executive director of the Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc., worries listing polar bears as "threatened" species will prevent economic growth in Alaska - <https://www.wnyc.org/story/24646-polar-opposites/>. (**Economic Growth** has nothing to do with whether or not listing is warranted)

2008 "However, the land where Pebble is located is state land, designated for mining in state land use planning documents. **The companies involved have spent hundreds of millions of dollars in exploration.** If and when it does move forward, the National Environmental Policy Act and the state permitting process will kick in and assure that **the only way a mine can move forward is if it can protect the existing subsistence, sport, and commercial fisheries resources.**" <http://rdcarchives.org/newsletters/2008/february/executivedirectormessage.html> – (like the polar bear position – **the amount of money spent** is not a factor related to environmental protection – and now he would be in the position to approve that permitting process)

2010 - "With this ruling, it sets the precedent for future campaigns to simply budget 1 to 2 percent into their races for post-election fines as a cost of doing business. **We are very disappointed with the actions of the APOC commissioners,**" RDC Executive Director Jason Brune said. (<http://www.petroleumnews.com/pntruncate/835808681.shtml>)

2016 - Jason Brune. Sr. Director, Land and Resources. Cook Inlet Region, Inc. CIRI – (Donlin Gold Project <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/mining/largemine/donlin/>)

I understand, you have received a number of similar comments – I hope the sources reference above support a conclusion that he has demonstrated a bias toward development that would be inappropriate for this agency and better suited to the Department of Natural Resources – Mining & Oil & Gas.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Steve Winker, Juneau Alaska

From: Anelise Zimmer [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2019 9:52 PM
To: House Resources <House.Resources@akleg.gov>
Subject: Jason Brune

Hello,

My name is Anelise Zimmer from Kodiak, Alaska (99615). I strongly oppose the appointment of Jason Brune as Commissioner of ADEC. His history as a spokesperson for Pebble Mine is a deeply concerning conflict of interest. His interests do not reflect those of Alaskans nor the environment.

Sincerely,
Anelise Zimmer

From: [steve hvams](#)
To: [House Resources](#)
Subject: Confirmation Hearing
Date: Friday, March 15, 2019 6:23:59 PM

My name is Stephan Hyams . I am a registered voter in AK residing in Anchorage and Bristol Bay.

I stand firmly against the consideration of Jason Brune in the position of Commissioner of Environmental Conservation.

Mr. Brune's position as spokesperson for the Pebble Mine and his involvement with Anglo American Mines would seem at best inconsistent with the responsible undertaking of this important position.

The denial of the truth does not make a new truth. Rather in this case it smacks of kleptocracy. Do not confirm this gentleman to the position .

Respectfully,
Stephan Hyams

From: Johnse Ostman
To: House Resources
Subject: Oppose Jason Brune for ADEC Commissioner
Date: Friday, March 15, 2019 6:16:48 PM

To whom it may concern.

As an Alaskan, a commercial fisherman, and a hydrologist who has spent years working in Southeast, Southwest, and Bristol Bay Alaska I am very concerned about any resource development that may adversely affect water quality and fisheries. Jason Brune's past suggests he will not be a neutral decision maker with respect to Pebble and/or other large resource development projects that have the potential to decimate culturally significant and renewable resources solely to benefit his corporate sponsors. Never should the fox be invited to tend the hen house and Jason Brune is that Fox.

I strongly oppose Brune's confirmation as ADEC Commissioner and respectfully ask the Alaska Legislature to reject his appointment as he is unfit to lead such a critical department.

Sincerely,
Johnse Ostman

[REDACTED]
Anchorage AK 99517

[REDACTED]

From: [Lisa Paesani](#)
To: [House Resources](#)
Subject: Vote no on Jason Brune
Date: Friday, March 15, 2019 6:16:44 PM

Dear AK Legislators,

Please vote no in the confirmation hearing of Jason Brune. His past positions are a clear conflict with the position to be the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation for our state. We need a fair and unbiased person in this position who actually has environmental conservation of Alaska as their true focus. Jason's involvement as the executive director of the Resource development council, being clearly pro-pebble mine, shows he has a conflict of interest. Please stop this appointment, we are counting on you.

Thank you.

Lisa Paesani

[REDACTED]
Anchorage AK 99517

[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPhone

From: [myracscholze](#)
To: [House Resources](#)
Subject: Jason Brune
Date: Friday, March 15, 2019 6:07:37 PM

My name is Myra Scholze and I am from Kodiak, Alaska (99615).

I wholeheartedly oppose the appointment of Jason Brune as Commissioner of Environmental Conservation. His history as spokesman for Pebble Mine is a grave conflict of interest. His priorities do not lie with Alaska's sustainable fisheries.

Thank you,
Myra Scholze

From: [Natalie Watson](#)
To: [House Resources](#)
Subject: Oppose Jason Brune
Date: Friday, March 15, 2019 6:03:44 PM

Dear House Resources Committee,

I live in Juneau and am a lifelong Alaskan. I am writing to oppose in the strongest possible terms the nomination of Jason Brune to head the DEC. Brune was the spokesman for Pebble Mine and couldn't be impartial if he tried.

We cannot tolerate mining activities to proceed anywhere in our state without the highest levels of oversight and accountability. Already the Army Corps has been so compromised that its draft environmental impact statement fails to consider the most obvious danger associated with Pebble- a catastrophic tailings dam failure similar to the disaster at Mt. Polley in 2014. The company responsible for designing that earthen dam that failed, resulting in the devastating release of billions of gallons of mining waste into nearby salmon streams, is the same company that was hired by Northern Dynasty to design the earthen dams at Pebble. Yet the Army Corps ignores this possibility.

After the Mt Polley disaster, the Auditor General of British Columbia concluded that if the mandate of the regulatory agency included a responsibility to both promote and regulate mining, there is no meaningful oversight. They recommended to the Canadian parliament that they create an independent compliance and enforcement unit for mining activities, with a mandate to ensure the protection of the environment. Likewise, if the DEC cannot be an independent regulatory agency, then they should be demolished and a new agency created with the mandate to protect the environment and hold mining companies to the highest possible standards.

Alaskans demand accountability and fairness at all levels of government and will not tolerate corruption of our public agencies.

Thank you,
Natalie Watson

From: David Zimmer
To: House Resources
Subject: Jason Brune confirmation hearing testimony
Date: Friday, March 15, 2019 6:01:06 PM

My name is David Zimmer. I live near Palmer, AK. I would like to express a statement opposing the appointment of Jason Brune to Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Jason Brune is completely unqualified for being Commissioner of DEC. Jason Brune has no experience, none, in environmental conservation. He has made a career spanning many decades of working for the mining industry to promote mining. Mr. Brune openly and aggressively campaigns to develop the Pebble Mine project in the face of strong public opposition to it and despite overwhelming scientific evidence that the mine threatens the Bristol Bay region habitat for all life, including humans who have lived there for thousands of years, as well as threatening the Bristol Bay salmon fishery. By his long and dedicated history in the mining industry, Mr. Brune has shown that he will not even hesitate to favor requests by mining companies. Jason Brune has no demonstrated actions even suggesting that he might question a mining permit request. Under Jason Brune's leadership the Department of Environmental Conservation would need to be renamed the Department of Environmental Destruction. Jason Brune's vision for Alaska is a lifeless landscape of smoking rubble.

One last thing:

Dear Legislators:

Not one of you would tolerate it if you attended your child's basketball game and the coach of the opposing team insisted on refereeing the game. Jason Brune has made his career as a professional coach to the mining industry. Think of the Commissioner of DEC as a kind referee. Do not confirm Jason Brune for Commissioner of DEC. Please choose someone for Commissioner of DEC who will look after the **environmental conservation** of our land.

—David Zimmer

From: Paul
To: House Resources
Subject: Do Not confirm Jason Brune
Date: Friday, March 15, 2019 6:00:43 PM

Jason Brune, is Pebble's former spokesman and I believe will still be Pebble Cheerleader for bonus checks if he gets Confirmed by the State Legislature.

He was also the executive director to the Resource Development Council, another big Pebble Mine booster. If confirmed, he would be in a position to issue critical state water permits for Pebble Mine. That is an obvious conflict of interest.

I Paul Frost do not support The fox being left loose in the chicken pen, so to speak.

Allowing Jason Brune to be a cheerleader for Pebbles Open pit mine, will ultimately ruin a renewable resource, clean drinking water and every other ecosystem that will be exposed to Pebble Pit mine toxic waste.

Thank you,
Paul Frost

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From: [Linda Waller](#)
To: [House Resources](#)
Subject: FW: Jason Brune Confirmation
Date: Friday, March 15, 2019 5:30:37 PM

From: [Linda Waller](#)

My name is Linda Waller and I am representing my self. I am a 45 year resident of Alaska and have enjoyed many years of hiking, hunting, and sport fishing while being involved in the commercial fishing industry.

I do not support Jason Brune as I feel he is biased and inappropriate for this position. He is not neutral and is known to support Pepple Mine which would soon be the end of the worlds largest sockeye salmon run. The position is for Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation. Please consider someone who would support the existing Fisheries or at the very least, someone who is neutral and able to be flexible in their ability to make a decision.

Thank you for not voting for Mr. Brune and for allowing my input.

Linda Waller



Sitka AK 99835

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Bethany Goodrich](#)
To: [House Resources](#)
Subject: Please oppose Jason Brune
Date: Friday, March 15, 2019 5:27:43 PM

To the House Resources Committee,

Thank you for sourcing public input on this very important nomination. I was unable to attend in person to offer public testimony but wanted to join the many voices of Alaskans who oppose Jason Brune's nomination. His history clearly demonstrates his bias toward supporting the Pebble Mine, a controversial mine that threatens the largest sockeye run on earth. Alaskans continue to advocate against this mine, the risk to our quality of life is far too great. Salmon are too important to Alaskans to appoint Brune in this position. We need someone whose history and experiences demonstrate they will care for this resource and respect how a changing climate may also impact our wild fisheries.

Thank you for considering public input,
Bethany Goodrich

[REDACTED]
Sitka Alaska
9985

--

Bethany Goodrich
Communications Director
Sustainable Southeast Partnership
[REDACTED]

[SustainableSoutheast.net](#) | [bethany-goodrich.com](#)



Virus-free. www.avg.com

From: [Greta Cox](#)
To: [House Resources](#)
Subject: Written testimony regarding appointment of Jason Brune
Date: Friday, March 15, 2019 4:59:22 PM

Hello. I called in to testify today, but was told that maybe a written statement might be better, so here it is - I am not much of a public speaker, but this issue is one of such local through global significance that I have to say something. I grew up in Kenai. Much of my family still lives in Alaska. I taught in Bristol Bay and know many people there. Not a single one, that I even know of.... with the exception of the ones employed by Pebble are in favor of Pebble. Many of them will not speak up, it is not what many of them are comfortable doing. People of the Bay have existed on salmon and the other resources of the bay for probably thousands of years. When I was teaching biology there, I went on an educator tour of the proposed mine. I spent several days being shown around. I will always remember that several biologists that were doing baseline stream studies to record what invertebrates etc were in the stream around pebble said basically, that if this thing ever goes through it is insane....

I fish in Bristol Bay. I would gladly give up my permit and boat if that were what it would take to make Pebble would go away forever...the richness of Bristol Bay is well worth the financial well being of one person, many in fact. Bristol Bay supplies the world with food. Unlike the mine, the fishing industry is based on a renewable resource that has a great history of management for sustainability by Alaska. Pebble mine is not a renewable resource. That alone should be enough to kick it to the curb ...a renewable, sustainable resource or a finite resource that will leave a mess in the end. To me that is a no brainer.

This company is not even American. Even more reason for us not to let them trash our homeland for their benefit. As legislators, it is your DUTY to protect this state and it's people. It is your DUTY to no allow things that are reprehensible, underhanded and greedy take place here. I have heard that politics is a give and take – I can not think of anything that you could trade to get that would be valuable enough to allow the possibility of the wiping out of one of the greatest most productive watersheds on Earth.

People who have not been to Bristol Bay can not probably fathom how extraordinary it is. It is truly one of the last great wild places on Earth. It sustains a culture and feeds people all over the globe. It also sustains numerous animals dependent on fish.

It is incomprehensible to me that such a risk as Pebble Mine poses would even get this far....there is only one reason it has. Greed. I hope that you leaders will lead and take a stand for what is right here. Please do not let a chicken in the hen house by allowing Jason Brune to be confirmed.

Thank you,
Greta Glotfelty Horn

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Maila Bischoff](#)
To: [House Resources](#)
Subject: no JASON BRUNE
Date: Friday, March 15, 2019 4:38:53 PM

I care about fish I care about water, and I care about the future of both in Alaska.

I do NOT trust Jason Brune to protect any of these.

I work in the tourism industry, and mining goes against everything important to preserve the amazing place where we get to live.

All of this, before even discussion of subsistence rights under attack.

No no no, to this fox guarding henhouse nomination.

Maila Bischoff

[REDACTED]

Anchorage AK 99517

--

Maila Bischoff

From: [john.spielman](#)
To: [House Resources](#)
Subject: Deny Confirmation of Jason Brune
Date: Friday, March 15, 2019 4:28:35 PM

To All Persons tasked with protecting Alaska's resources,

I have lived in Alaska for 38 years and treasure the beauty of our state and health of our natural resources, particularly our salmon and other fish. Fishing is not only important to me and my family as an important food source and recreation, it is important to many Alaskans for subsistence and livelihood. We also have a World-Class tourist industry that revolves around the fishing resources in Alaska. As such, Alaska needs strong stewardship of its land, water, and air. Especially at a time in which Alaska "is open for business" we need leadership at the ADEC that is not a former lobby for one of the most environmentally damaging industries on the planet. We all recognize that mining is something that must be done to provide the goods and services that we all need. That is not the issue. The issue is that Jason Brune has a conflict of interest with Alaska's health and welfare due to his prior career, efforts, and opinions and should not be placed into a Director position of a State agency whose mission is the protection of Alaska's land, water, and air and ensure that laws and regulations are in place to monitor, restrict, and enforce, if necessary the degradation of the environment by persons and/or industries.

The People of Alaska depend upon you to deny Jason Brune this position and show us that you also care for Alaska.

Respectfully,
John Spielman

Anchorage, AK 99502

From: [Anne Wieland](#)
To: [House Resources](#)
Cc: [Rep. Sarah Vance](#)
Subject: Jason Brune for Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation
Date: Friday, March 15, 2019 3:45:10 PM

Co-Chairs John Lincoln and Geran Tarr and members of the House Resources committee,

I urge you to vote NO on the selection of Jason Brune as Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation. It is hard to see how he could oversee Alaska's resources impartially with his long history of working for the mining industry including running a mining industry PAC. Most concerning is his three year association with the Pebble Mine. Confirming him would be like appointing the perennial fox to guard the henhouse. As the late Senator Ted Stevens once said, "Pebble Mine would be the wrong mine in the wrong place". It is a crazy idea to exchange the legendary Bristol Bay salmon renewable resource for a one time destruction of this fishery by the many hazards surrounding the operation of an open pit mine. Please encourage finding someone else for the very important job of Commissioner of Environmental Conservation who is not connected to any non-renewable resource. Please vote No on Jason Brune.

Thank you
Anne Wieland
Homer, AK

From: [LIO Petersburg](#)
To: [House Resources](#)
Subject: A. Hemenway HRES 031519 oppose Confirm DEC Commissioner Jason Brune
Date: Friday, March 15, 2019 3:19:46 PM
Attachments: [A. Hemenway HRES 031519 oppose Confirm DEC Commissioner Jason Brune.docx](#)

Legislative Information & Teleconferencing
11B Gjoa St
PO Box 1470
Petersburg, AK 99833
907.772.3741/Fax 772.3779
petersburg.lio@akleg.gov

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Click [HERE](#) to watch live streaming of the Alaska State Legislature
Click [HERE](#) to send your Legislators a Public Opinion Message during Session

From: [Patty Brown](#)
To: [House Resources](#)
Subject: Fwd: No to Jason Brune as DEC Commissioner
Date: Friday, March 15, 2019 3:11:45 PM

I represent myself. I was first given the wrong e-mail and have had to forward. Thank you.

I get that my issue is most likely with Governor Dunleavy's misguided priorities in selecting his leadership, but that ship has sailed. People voted slightly over 51% to elect Dunleavy, after a somewhat chaotic election season. But I can say here and now that it is NOT appropriate for you to approve Dunleavy's selection of Jason Brune. He spent eleven years as an advocate for business through his work with the Resource Development Council. He was welcomed in that job as someone who will "make a difference for business." This is right after he worked for AMEREF where he described himself as an educator. I wonder how RDC got the impression he would be a development advocate; perhaps because his education was NOT balanced. Yes, he worked for CIRI, but it has been clear from many public dialogues on resource protection, the corporations do not always speak for their native constituents who live the subsistence lifestyle.

Mr. Brune has a BS in biology but no Master's Degree to show for his environmental science studies, saying he did some research but was "too busy" to finish. I am afraid that he will be "too busy" to be the watchdog that his position requires. Or maybe he will think it is OK that the developer was "too busy" to complete their plan for mitigation. Or "too busy" to clean up a mess left behind. Conservation means wise use, and the DEC is assigned to consider development, not rubber stamp it. Brune's mantra of "think globally, develop locally" sounds like he has a blanket "yes" on the tip of his tongue for most developments. The truth is, Bristol Bay IS developed. It is a developed fishery, producing 50% of the world's sockeye salmon, and there is no room to add any other consumptive developments to that watershed. Pebble Mine, a development supported financially by a former employer of Mr. Brune's, is incompatible with the fishery that is Bristol Bay. I do not trust Mr. Brune to recognize that Pebble Mine, and likely other proposals, are experimental projects, putting our landscape, its living natural resources, and the well being of Alaskans at great risk. He has made it clear his allegiance is to Mr. Dunleavy's corporate supporters, namely oil, gas, and mineral companies.

I do not believe Mr. Brune's background shows that he really would conserve, improve, and protect the environment of our state. He would protect the profits of mineral resource corporations. I do not trust that he would fully consider public concerns. And I do not believe he would promote and enforce "protective standards." So he is not the one for this job.

Please say no to the confirmation of Jason Brune.

Thank you.

Patty Brown

From: [John M. Kennish](#)
To: [House Resources](#)
Subject: Mr. Brune
Date: Friday, March 15, 2019 2:57:48 PM

Committee:

I do not support this individual because he does not have the appropriate background. A national search indicates that Commissioners of Environmental Conservation have degrees in law with experience in engineering, chemistry or biology. Most of these individuals also do not have experience related to resource extractions or even environmental control to assure that prejudice is not a factor of performance in the review of projects and issues concerning environmental conservation.

John M Kennish
Anchorage

From: math
To: House Resources
Subject: Jason Brune as commissioner of Alaska DEC
Date: Friday, March 15, 2019 2:55:28 PM

Dear House Resources Committee,

I strongly oppose Jason Brune as Commissioner of Alaska DEC. He is entirely unqualified for this position, and I do not think he represents the viewpoints appropriate for somebody of this position. I am highly skeptical of his personal interests intervening in the public interests. Please continue to search for a more qualified candidate.

Thank you,
-Math Trafton


Sitka, AK 99835

From: Joyanne Bloom
To: House Resources
Subject: Jason Brune Commissioner for Dept of MINING
Date: Friday, March 15, 2019 2:52:02 PM

Dear Committee Resources Representatives,

Totally appropriate if we needed a commissioner for Dept. of Mining.
I'd be all over it!

BUT

Totally unreasonable for commissioner for Department of Environmental Conservation.

The stated mission of the Department of Environmental Conservation is:
"To conserve, improve and protect Alaska's natural resources and environment to enhance the health, safety, economic and social well-being of Alaskans."

His qualifications and experience don't line up. Please do not support his nomination.

Thank you,
Joyanne Bloom

--
Joyanne Bloom
[REDACTED]
Juneau, Alaska 99801

[REDACTED]

From: [Mike Bronson](#)
To: [House Resources](#)
Subject: Please vote No on Mr. Brune's confirmation
Date: Friday, March 15, 2019 2:42:44 PM

From: Kendra Buerger
To: [House Resources](#)
Subject: Vote NO on Jason Brune
Date: Friday, March 15, 2019 2:40:56 PM

Hi there.

My name is Kendra Buerger. I represent myself as a lifelong Alaskan and fisher(woman), and I'm writing to advocate for the rejection of the nomination for Jason Brune. I implore you to please vote no.

I've grown up commercial fishing in Bristol Bay, and Pebble mine is a threat to a beautiful, rich ecosystem. Jason Brune is not suited to be commissioner of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. There is a very clear conflict of interest. Brune's intentions cannot be trusted. A vote for Brune is a vote against conservation, protection, and sustainable management of Alaska's natural resources. A vote for Jason is a vote for Pebble mine. PLEASE vote NO on Jason Brune.

Thank you,

Kendra Buerger

From: [Victoria OConnell](#)
To: [House Resources](#)
Cc: [Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins](#)
Subject: No to confirmation of Jason Brune
Date: Friday, March 15, 2019 2:03:01 PM

Dear Chair and committee,

I do not support appointment of Jason Brune to DEC Commissioner. This is a critically important position and Mr. Brune clearly has conflicts of interest given his past work for Pebble Mine and Executive Director of the Resource Council. Alaskans deserve an impartial Director.

Thank you

Victoria O'Connell Curran

Sitka, Alaska

From: [Alannah Hurley](#)
To: [House Resources](#)
Subject: UTBB Testimony for Brune Confirmation Hearing
Date: Friday, March 15, 2019 1:55:00 PM
Attachments: [UTBB Testimony on Brune Confirmation.docx](#)

Hi,

For the record attached below.

Quyana,

--

Alannah Hurley
Executive Director
United Tribes of Bristol Bay
Office (907) 842-1687
[REDACTED]
Fax (907) 842- 1853

From: [Heidi Chay](#)
To: [House Resources](#)
Subject: vote "no" on Jason Brune
Date: Friday, March 15, 2019 12:21:39 PM

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the House Resources Committee,

I am shocked and dismayed to read that Jason Brune is being considered for the Commissioner of Alaska's Department of Environmental Conservation. The Pebble Project deserves a fair hearing from DEC, but their spokesmen and representatives should not be running DEC. That defies common sense. Please vote "no" on Jason Brune.

Heidi Chay
Kenai

--

Heidi P. Chay



From: [Jane Renslo-Ure](#)
To: [House Resources](#)
Subject: Opposing Jason Brune's appointment
Date: Friday, March 15, 2019 6:25:26 PM

Sent from my iPhone

"My name is Jane Renslo , from Kodiak and a former resident of Naknek. Due to an abundance of calls, I was told to email so here it is!

I strongly oppose the appointment of Jason Brune as the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation. With his history regarding Pebble, I do not support this appointment.

I hold Bristol Bay near and dear to my heart! I lived & taught in Naknek for 12 years, started a family there, my 2 sons are currently and have been fishermen! The future of Bristol Bay is important to me for many reasons!

I believe Jason Brune will help further Pebble's projects, effectively contributing to the demise of the sockeye salmon industry. Please find a candidate that meets the criteria that will work to ensure a sustainable Future for the Bay's people!

Thank you.

Jane Renslo

From: Kimberly Slone
To: House Resources
Subject: Brune Confirmation Hearing
Date: Friday, March 15, 2019 6:34:27 PM

Dear Alaskan Representatives and Senators,

I urge you to vote NO on Jason Brune's confirmation. This is a man who has spent his entire career representing and/or working for the mining industry. For God's sake, Jason Brune was the spokesperson for Pebble Mine. Please don't allow the future of Alaska's natural resources, specifically Bristol Bay to be placed in this man's hands. If you do, I fear we will all be eating GMO Salmon from Indiana.

Please act responsibly on this important matter and vote no. Future generations are counting on you. Thank you in advance!

Kindest regards,
Kimberly Slone


Wasilla, Alaska 99654


Sent from my iPhone

From: [Lynn Van Vactor](#)
To: [House Resources](#)
Subject: Please vote no
Date: Friday, March 15, 2019 6:29:30 PM

Jason Brune is not an appropriate nominee for Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Mr. Brunes motto to "Think Globally and Develop locally" shows a total disconnect to the need for protection of Alaskan resources. One only needs to look globally at the destruction of vast fisheries (Pacific Coast Salmon, North Atlantic Salmon, Norway's fisheries) to realize that "Thinking Globally" is a poor method of leadership and a formidable disaster in stewardship let alone conservation.

As Alaskans priding ourselves on wild well managed fisheries and somewhat balanced development we need to learn from global & local mistakes and protect the last remaining fisheries resource in the world.

I believe that Mr. Brune's track record of mineral development will jeopardize fisheries conservation and Alaska's renewable resources in exchange for a toxic pit that Alaska can nil afford to maintain into perpetuity.

Please vote NO on Mr. Brune's confirmation.

Sincerely,
Lynn Van Vactor
[REDACTED]
Dillingham, Alaska
99576

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Anne Wieland](#)
To: [House Resources](#)
Cc: [Rep. Sarah Vance](#)
Subject: Jason Brune for Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation
Date: Friday, March 15, 2019 3:45:10 PM

Co-Chairs John Lincoln and Geran Tarr and members of the House Resources committee,

I urge you to vote NO on the selection of Jason Brune as Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation. It is hard to see how he could oversee Alaska's resources impartially with his long history of working for the mining industry including running a mining industry PAC. Most concerning is his three year association with the Pebble Mine. Confirming him would be like appointing the perennial fox to guard the henhouse. As the late Senator Ted Stevens once said, "Pebble Mine would be the wrong mine in the wrong place". It is a crazy idea to exchange the legendary Bristol Bay salmon renewable resource for a one time destruction of this fishery by the many hazards surrounding the operation of an open pit mine. Please encourage finding someone else for the very important job of Commissioner of Environmental Conservation who is not connected to any non-renewable resource. Please vote No on Jason Brune.

Thank you
Anne Wieland
Homer, AK

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Thank you,

Kendra Buerger

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To: [House Resources](#)
Cc: [Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins](#)
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Thank you

Victoria O'Connell Curran
Sitka, Alaska

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Anne Wieland
Homer, AK