

March 20th, 2023



To: Alaska Senate Resources Committee
From: Alaska Public Interest Research Group

We are writing to elaborate on our oral testimony, presented by Robin O'Donoghue today, March 20th before the Senate Resources Committee. We would also like to share our concern that there was extremely short notice for both the confirmation hearing and opportunity for public testimony on this critical appointment. We hope that the public will be given reasonable notice to testify in the future.

To that end, AKPIRG believes Brett Huber has not conducted himself in a manner that recommends him for a commissioner position with the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (AOGCC), an entity whose mission explicitly requires the protection of the public interest.

Alaska needs members of regulatory entities to rise above politics. We need someone leading the AOGCC who represents the public, and displays stability and trustworthiness. AKPIRG does not believe Mr. Huber's professional record reflects these important qualities.

The Alaska Public Offices Commission (APOC) has examined Huber's conduct, where [he misled APOC while under oath](#) with respect to Ballot Measure 2 issues. Additionally, [Mr. Huber's resume](#) does not accurately reflect his actual employment history. His official resume claims a steady employment history from 2018 – 2022. In fact, although Mr. Huber's employment these last 5 years has included some time in state service, he has also very [publicly admitted](#) to leaving his State job on several occasions, in order to run several political campaigns as well as managing special projects for Gov. Dunleavy.

While Mr. Huber claims stable and continuous time in state service between December, 2018 through May, 2022, records reveal that to be untrue. Mr. Huber was appointed Senior Policy Advisor in the Governor's Office on Dec. 3, 2018 and then separated from state employment on August 6, 2020 to work on a political ballot campaign. On July 6, 2021, Mr. Huber was then appointed to another Senior Policy Advisor position again and again separated from state employment on April 2, 2022 to work on political campaigns while at the same time he pocketed state monies from a no-bid Governor's Office contract.

While out of service, he's been less than transparent and truthful about his compensation with GOP organizations as he worked on their campaigns. Additionally, his income included exclusive state contracts with Governor Dunleavy's office for the times he was unemployed by the state.

AOGCC is an incredibly important institution with a checkered history of governance in the public interest—from former Alaska GOP Chair Randy Ruedrich's conflicts, to the recent Hollis French AK Supreme Court case, to AOGCC's recent cancellation of monthly public meetings.

Alaska needs someone on the AOGCC who is stable, transparent and trustworthy. Mr. Huber has been less than honest when representing his work experience to the legislature. He has been under public scrutiny for his conduct while under oath, and his professional allegiances. For all intent and purposes, he has been serving the individual Mike Dunleavy's needs, rather than needs of the Governor or State. We do not believe Mr. Huber will act in the public's best interest as AOGCC chair.

Please do not vote to confirm Brett Huber to the Alaska Oil and Gas Confirmation Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Veri di Suvero", is written over a horizontal line.

Veri di Suvero
Executive Director
AKPIRG