



MARCH 30, 2017

Please forward
CN to JASON T.

Thank you,

Scott D.

SCOTT DARKENWALD

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APR - 3 2017

March 28, 2017

Dear Senator Daines,

I am writing to you to recommend Kurt Alme to be recommended by you to be Montana's next United States Attorney.

This is a man I have known well since 2002 when we both served Montana Governor Judy Martz in her Cabinet. He was the Director of the Department of Revenue and I was the Director of the Department of Administration. From January 2013 until a year ago I was the Chief of Staff for Montana Attorney General Tim Fox and the Deputy Director of the Montana Department of Justice. I have spent the majority of my career in the private sector.

Kurt is a native Montanan, dedicated and loving husband and father and one of the most humble, selfless people I have had the privilege to know and work alongside. Both he and his wife, Sandra, have Harvard Law degrees. He has given his considerable intellect and talents and used them to serve the people and the state of Montana.

Kurt started his Law career as a Law Clerk for U.S. District Judge Charles Lovell in Helena, Montana. He spent two years learning litigation of Federal legal issues handled by the U.S. Attorney's Office from the judicial perspective. From there he went to work for Crowley Fleck, our states largest law firm, which was a tremendous training ground for him as they deal in most aspects of the law. At Crowley Fleck he was able to see a significant spectrum of the law. He had a broad commercial and tax practice. If you are going to be in charge of an organization you have to understand finances which he does.

That lead Kurt into the public sector as the Director of the Department of Revenue. Here he lead a large and complex organization where he managed a significant budget and sizable workforce. Here is where I was exposed to his considerable talents and capacity. Not only did he have to run the Department of Revenue but he inherited a large scale technology failure which he had to manage through. Because the State's CIO worked for me we worked closely together and I could witness first hand his leadership skills, work ethic, communication skills and management skills. I was struck by his capacity to manage many balls in the air at the same time. He is uniquely gifted here, with the perfect temperament for a high stress environment while setting his staff free to do their jobs. At Revenue all major civil litigation and legal decisions went through Kurt. He knows how to make decisions. Truly a leader, much more than just a competent manager.

Next Kurt moved into the role of Assistant U.S. Attorney rising to become First Assistant in the Montana U.S. Attorney's office while George W. Bush was President. He knows this organization intimately and that would uniquely allow him to step into the role as Montana's U.S. Attorney full steam ahead. There would be some catching up to do but not a large scale learning curve that would take even the most talented some considerable time to get up to speed. He knows the issues, has the relationships, has unique and significant experience for this

role. He would work seamlessly with the Montana Attorney General's Office and the Montana Department of Justice on important law enforcement issues. I can't emphasize enough what an advantage this would be in tackling some of the major challenges that are out there.

Kurt's next move, not surprisingly, was to accept the role of President and General Counsel of the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch Foundation. The Ranch is a large mental health care operation for kids. He walked right by a lucrative private practice career into the non-profit world. True to who he is, he selflessly looked for a new way to serve. And what a job he has done. I sit on that BOD and once again witness firsthand his considerable gifts. Kurt is goal driven, action oriented, organized and effective. He truly has the heart of a public servant, critical to the role for which he is being considered. He is a man with a well deserved reputation of integrity and an unsurpassed work ethic. He is visionary, compassionate and loving. Kurt is an excellent communicator and maybe more important, a very good listener.

Senator Daines, It is obvious I think highly of Kurt Alme. Rest assured I would not be writing you this letter unless I meant what I have said. I can't imagine a better choice to be Montana's next U.S. Attorney for all the reasons I have tried to articulate. Kurt would serve our Nation and our State in a way ALL Montanan's would be proud of and thankful for, of that I am absolutely confident.

Sincerely Yours,



Scott Darkenwald
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