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APR - 3 2017

85 Brookside Way
Missoula, MT 59802
March 31, 2017

Hon. Steve Daines
30 West 14th Street, Suite 206
Helena, MT 59601

Re: U.S. Attorney for the District of Montana

Dear Senator Daines:

I recommend Kurt Alme for your and the President's consideration as U.S. Attorney for the District of Montana.

I have known Mr. Alme for more than twenty years. As a 14-year dean of the University of Montana School of Law, I became acquainted with him when Mr. Alme was an associate, and later a partner, in the Crowley, Haughey, Hanson, Toole & Dietrich law firm. As a Uniform Law Commissioner and chair of a committee of the State Bar of Montana considering the Montana Uniform Trust Code, I worked with Mr. Alme closely in 2012-13. As former Chief of the Montana Office of Consumer Protection from 2014 to January of this year, I had frequent contact with Mr. Alme during his representation of the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch Foundation.

In 2012, I learned that Mr. Alme's reputation as a lawyer's lawyer and as a leader was well justified. Mr. Alme volunteered to lead one of four sections of the Bar's Montana Uniform Trust Code (MT UTC) Committee. As chair of that committee, I was pleased to appoint him as a section leader. Each section was charged with reviewing various divisions of the MT UTC. As it turned out, Mr. Alme's section was challenged with reviewing some 35% of the Code, consisting of many of its more complex provisions. Under Mr. Alme's leadership, those provisions were thoroughly explained and alternatives were presented to the full committee. This required thorough analysis, clear drafting, and the ability to effectively communicate. Not only did Mr. Alme meet and exceed those requirements in the work of his section, he provided thoughtful and articulate input on other MT UTC provisions that were not part of his section's assignment. When Mr. Alme spoke, the 30 committee members listened.

Also, Mr. Alme played an important role in the legislative process. The MT UTC, like other trust codes, includes a number of provisions directly affecting charitable trusts. Support of Montana's nonprofit community was critical to the enactment of the MT UTC. Mr. Alme was, and is, the *de facto* leader of attorneys in the Montana nonprofit community. He successfully rallied the support of that critical community, which significantly contributed to the Legislature and Governor's adoption of the MT UTC.

I have had another opportunity for close interaction with Mr. Alme. Thanks to Montana Attorney General Tim Fox, I served as Chief of the Office of Consumer Protection, which oversees nonprofit corporations and charitable trusts. Under Montana statutory law, modifications of charitable trusts require the consent of the Attorney General. The Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch Foundation (the "Foundation") serves as trustee of a handful of charitable trusts. Because of changes in federal and

state law, it was necessary for the Foundation to seek trust modifications. Mr. Alme's written requests for trust modifications demonstrated a thorough review of the law, the consideration of alternatives other than trust modification, the involvement of trust beneficiaries and trust creators whenever possible, and attention to charitable beneficiaries. His effective and efficient legal representation ultimately resulted in additional resources benefiting Montana trust beneficiaries.

Finally like Mr. Alme, I have had the opportunity to serve as an Assistant United States Attorney. In that role, I learned about the power of prosecutorial discretion and its corresponding responsibility. I have seen Mr. Alme exercise his discretion in a prudent fashion. If Mr. Alme is appointed to the office of United States Attorney, I predict that you and the President will be proud of your decision. Mr. Alme will thoughtfully shoulder that office's responsibilities.

In short, I strongly recommend Mr. Alme for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E. Edwin Eck". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and a long, sweeping underline.

E. Edwin Eck

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Justice
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