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U. S. Senator Steve Daines  
30 West 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Ste. 206  
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Senator Daines:

I am writing in regard to my good friend and former colleague, Kurt Alme. I have known Kurt since 1992 when we both clerked for United States District Court Judge Charles C. Lovell. We were then partners together at Crowley, Haughey, Hanson, Toole & Dietrich and reunited again at the United States Attorney's Office when I signed on there in 2004. From the very beginning, I knew that Kurt was an exceptional person. Not only is he an outstanding lawyer, he is one of the finest men I have ever had the privilege to know.

Over the years of working closely with Kurt, I have repeatedly had it confirmed for me that Kurt's legal skills are extraordinary. He has always had the remarkable ability to devote whatever time is necessary to analyze a legal issue and get to the core of any question presented. In all of my legal experience, I have never known anyone with Kurt's capacity for hard work and diligence. Based on my personal knowledge, many of the cases Kurt worked on as a clerk, an attorney with the Crowley firm and as an Assistant U.S. Attorney addressed some of the most complex and difficult issues imaginable. His skill and commitment to excellence were always on full display, and he was a fine example for those working with him.

Even more importantly for me, Kurt's conviction to do the right thing in all circumstances is the hallmark of his professionalism. His deep faith and compassion for others is always evident, and I have come to rely on Kurt's judgment and integrity when addressing matters both legal and personal.

I recently retired from the U.S. Attorney's Office but worked with Kurt for several years when he was a line prosecutor and then First Assistant. His knowledge of the workings of the office, therefore, encompasses not only the day-to-day grind of prosecution and appellate work, but also the intricacies of management and administration. Kurt's time in the trenches gave him an understanding of the difficulties of prosecution which served him well as the First Assistant. His leadership based on actual experience was highly regarded and appreciated by the prosecutors he managed.

In sum, I cannot think of a better person to take on the duties of United States Attorney for the District of Montana. It is a difficult job that requires many talents, and Kurt has all of them. His legal skills, his extensive prior experience and his personality all uniquely qualify him for the position, and I hope he is given the opportunity to serve for the benefit of the United States Attorney's Office and for all of Montana.

Sincerely,



Michael S. Lahr