Honorable Steve Daines

United States Senator

State of Montana

Senator Daines,

I am happy to be writing this letter in support of my friend and former colleague, Kurt Alme. I understand that he is up for consideration and nomination for the position of the United States Attorney for the state of Montana.

I have known Kurt for many years. I worked for the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division, in the position of Special Agent for over twenty-eight years - the last twenty of which I was located in Missoula. I got to know Kurt sometime in the year 2003 when he was hired as an Assistant United States Attorney and was housed in the Billings office. Kurt had a unique set of skills for prosecuting tax and white collar crimes as he had been the Director of the Department of Revenue for the State of Montana as well as had worked at the Department of Justice, Tax Division for a period of time. Because of the complexities of tax and white collar crime investigations and prosecutions in general, Kurt brought a vast amount of experience and knowledge to his position. This gave us a chance to get to know one another well, and for me, it was a chance to have Kurt’s experienced perspective to draw upon while investigating and prosecuting these cases.

During the next seven or so years, Kurt and I worked on many cases and prepared them for prosecution. Kurt was always enthusiastic and dove into these investigations head first in order to get the cases prosecuted in a timely and prudent manner. Even after Kurt became the First Assistant to the United States Attorney, Bill Mercer, he continued to participate in many of my investigations. I could always count on his guidance and ideas which would often bring forth more efficient future prosecution efforts whether he was assigned to the case or not.

After Kurt took on the assignment of First Assistant, he managed the other Assistant United States Attorneys located in the state. Kurt never managed me directly but he managed my cases once they were assigned to the Department of Justice. I found Kurt to be a very fair and open minded person with regard to my feelings about prosecuting the cases in question. Kurt always asked for my opinion on case development and future prosecutorial steps to be taken. Having talked to many counterparts in other Federal, state and local agencies who also worked with Kurt, I am convinced Kurt relates and interacts well with people in general as they seemed to have had the same experiences with Kurt that I did.

Kurt left the United States Attorney’s Office in 2010, and personally, I believe the office lost a huge asset. Kurt went to work for the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch Foundation, and we have kept in touch since. He has told me that his work there has opened his eyes to other issues relating to the problems the children have such as drug and family issues.

In closing, I wholeheartedly endorse Kurt for your consideration and nomination as the next United States Attorney for the state of Montana. Kurt will bring energy, determination and knowledge to the job. Kurt will be an advocate for crime victim’s rights as well as pursue the prosecution of persons in violation of Federal criminal statutes. It is my hope that this letter helps you understand his character. The state of Montana would be fortunate to have Kurt Alme as their United States Attorney. If you have further questions or need additional information regarding Kurt, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

John Nielsen

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