

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

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APR - 7 2017

Dear Senator Daines,

I write in support of Kurt Alme for the position of United States Attorney for the District of Montana.

The following is a short background for myself.

I started the private practice of law in Hardin, January of 1972 (12 years), elected Big Horn County Attorney for three terms, 1974, 1978 and 1982. I was hired as an Assistant United States Attorney in May of 1984 to head the OCDEF (Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force) in the US Attorney's Office (1984-2012). During my time at the US Attorney's office, I was criminal chief for approximately 10 years, prosecuted the Montana Freeman and received the Attorney General's highest award for this work in 1999 in the form of the Attorney General's Award for Exceptional Service, and tried dozens and dozens of criminal jury trials, including several mandatory life sentence defendants. I retired July of 2012 and have assisted Judge Sheila Kolar in Billings Municipal Court as a pro tem judge- (2013-2016) and have been appointed Hardin City Court Judge July, 2015 to the present as a public service.

I stated my background to let you know my familiarity with the Montana Bar and with the US Attorney's Office in Montana and what makes it tick and what motivates the hardworking people in the five offices in Montana.

I first met Kurt Alme in 1992 when he was clerking for one of the smartest federal judges the District of Montana has ever placed on the bench, the Honorable Charles C. Lovell. Kurt was his law clerk and started his law career with appointment to this prestigious position of a federal law clerk. I was able to observe Kurt exhibit his professional attitude, brilliance and loyalty to Judge Lovell and the federal court system. Law clerks are the backbone of the inter workings of the federal judiciary. A good clerk makes his/her boss shine and all the while, remaining in the background and not in any manner outshining the judge. Kurt was humble, studious and represented the court well in dealings with all parties in that position. I had the privilege of trying many cases before Judge Lovell in Helena, although I was based in Billings.

After Kurt moved on in his career, we did not see much of each other until he came to the U.S. Attorney's Office in 2003, where I was able to really get to know him.

Kurt's expertise was originally in white collar crime; and then as First Assistant, he handled overall managerial responsibilities in the U.S. Attorney's Office. Kurt is very smart, of course, Senator, you already know that, I mean really, really smart. He is obsessive compulsive when it comes to detail, whether it is taking a phone message, writing a brief or conducting a meeting.

I mention taking a phone message because my job required long hours and Kurt was in the office long hours and would often answer the phone after hours. His

routine was to stay late. His phone note to me was not just time, date and caller, but very precise details of the message.

It was during these late night stays that I grew to know Kurt well and was able to meet and talk with his wife and family when they would stop in to see Dad. I was able to see first hand how he, as a father, was proud of his family and the work he was accomplishing in the U.S. Attorney's Office.

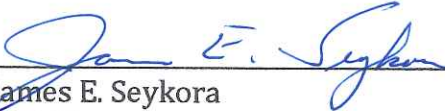
Kurt can manage a large office and many employees. His heart is in the right place. I mean he is a family man and that translates into how he deals with people! He is sensitive, yet firm, can see both sides and negotiates well.

The U.S. Attorney is a leader. This position demands a person that will be respected in each community and throughout the entire state. The U.S. Attorney must be a person that will make tough decisions, have to live with them and command a presence.

The U.S. Attorney's office affects many lives, from prosecution of major crimes on federal property, fighting the growing drug problem and working on cyber and intellectual crime. This office does it all.

It takes a proven leader, and Kurt is that type of person, to not only get the job done, but also make you proud that you nominated him to this lofty position of chief federal law enforcement officer in Montana.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if there are any questions or supplemental information that you need.



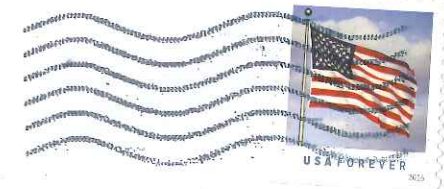
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