

3 July 2017

The Honorable Steve D. Daines  
1 Russell Senate Courtyard  
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Recommendation of Kurt Alme for U.S. Attorney for the District of Montana

Dear Senator Daines:

I wrote you with my whole hearted endorsement of Kurt Alme for the U.S. Attorney for the District of Montana.

I worked at the Montana State Auditor's Office from 1996 until 2008 (with a brief detour to the Montana Attorney General's Office). I worked as both an attorney and chief investigator while at the Montana State Auditor's Office.

When we had large white collar criminal cases, we would turn to the Montana U.S. Attorney's Office because they were better resourced to handle complex cases for prosecution. One such case involved Myron Felt, who was collecting hail insurance premiums and failing to remit that premium to insurance companies. I was heavily involved, as I supervised the State Auditor investigators at that time. It was a complex case in that it was document intensive and involved a lot of transactions in the arcane world of hail insurance. Kurt Alme was the federal prosecutor of this case.

As part of the State Auditor investigation team, I would meet or have phone calls with Mr. Alme on this case. Mr. Alme was wonderful to work with and he is adept at handling these intricate cases. He concisely cut through the complexity resulting in Mr. Felt being sentenced to 40 months for wire fraud. Mr. Alme also ensured that the damaged parties, in this case, various insurance companies, received restitution, of over \$500,000.

In the bigger picture, when I worked at the State Auditor's Office, the elected official was John Morrison, a Democrat. Mr. Alme never let partisan politics become involved with the investigating and prosecuting of criminal acts. His door was always open when we in the State Auditor's Office would bring cases to the Montana U.S. Attorney's Office for possible federal prosecution. I found him to have a calm demeanor, he treated people fairly, and his legal acumen was impeccable.

You will see from my address below that I no longer live in Montana. I mobilized to Letterkenny Army Depot, Pennsylvania with the Montana Army National Guard as part of the war effort. While there, I married a Pittsburgh woman, and never left. However, I have strong ties and affection for Montana. My mother, brother and close relatives still live in Montana. I co-own two family ranches in the Highwood area. I am solely

licensed as an attorney with the State Bar of Montana. My roots are still deep in the Big Sky State.

I am a lifelong Democrat, I have never crossed party lines for this type of endorsement. However, Montana deserves someone of high caliber for the position of U.S. Attorney, and for this reason, I request that you give serious consideration to Kurt Alme. He will do Montana proud.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin F. Phillips". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "K" and "P".

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