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June 30, 2017

Senator Daines  
1 Russell Senate Courtyard  
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Sen. Daines,

It is an honor to write this letter in support of your nomination of Kurt Alme for United States Attorney. Over the past twenty-eight years, I have had the pleasure of working with Kurt in a number of capacities, as well as maintaining a supportive and inspiring friendship. During this time, I have found Kurt to be mission-centered, curious and concerned, and always dedicated to the duty at hand. When Kurt shared that he has the opportunity to serve our state and country in the capacity of US Attorney, my first thought was that he is the perfect person for the job.

Having first crossed paths with Kurt as a high school student at a leadership camp where Kurt was a counselor, I knew immediately he was an individual whose charisma, intelligence, and drive would lead to success, additionally his motivation in life would always be mission-centered. At that time, Kurt was volunteering to not only give back to a program that supported him while he was a student, but more importantly, he also saw it as an opportunity to mentor and encourage future leaders. In his early 20's Kurt knew that the future of our state and our communities was only as strong as the leadership they maintained. With opportunities to live anywhere in this world, I found it inspirational to know that Kurt's ultimate goals included returning to MT. During those years, Kurt and I, along with a multitude of other young leaders, had many conversations about community, fostering strong foundations in our state, and inspiring others to be involved. Kurt was open about his faith, his intentions to serve others, and his desire to improve our community. This theme has not changed in the years that followed.

For the past twenty-three years, I have worked for Great Falls Public Schools initially as an English teacher and then as a counselor. I have served on a number of boards and committees in our community dealing with homelessness, mental health concerns, reentry of the incarcerated, and addictions that not only face our state, but also are consuming our communities, particularly our Native American population. I have also served as Camp Director for Camp Francis, a bereavement camp for children who have lost a significant person in his or her life, far too often from drug abuse. With each conversation I have had with Kurt over my tenure in education, his curiosity about the issues facing our youth and educational system has been commendable. Actively listening to challenges educators face today, particularly those involving drug abuse and its effects on kids, lead to intentional work by Kurt to make a difference through his involvement with Family Promise, Graduation Matters, and Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch. Kurt, ever humble with the differences he is making in our state, has never lost site of the driving mission to make the lives of all Montanans better.

Most recently my conversations with Kurt have centered around his concern with the influence drugs and addiction are having on the youth of Montana. Kurt's keen awareness and understanding of this issue is clearly evident. Always impressed with Kurt's knowledge of current statistics and his "big-picture" view of the subject, I have seen his compassion for those struggling with lives impacted by drugs and questioning how he could personally make a difference. Not only does Kurt have the awareness to be impactful, he also has the drive to make a difference. His work at YBGR has given him a front row seat to the complexities of drug use in Montana, and at the same time, it has raised his concern that something needs to be done to change the future for our kids—serving as US Attorney, would give him the opportunity to do so in a very direct, meaningful way.

As many of the letters you have received sing the accolades of Kurt Alme, the impact he has had on motivating others, and the differences he has already made in our state, I could go on and on. However, what I hope you take away from this letter is that Kurt has been consistent for decades in his desire to make our state and communities better, he has mentored and inspired leaders from the time he was a high school student to today, and his curiosity and concern lead him to live what he believes. Kurt's decisions and actions are intentional, meaningful, and thoughtful—and are always focused on improving the lives of others. Kurt did not seek this position, but rather feels called to serve at a time when a strong, dedicated leader is needed to fulfill this duty. I know that Kurt will serve all of us well, and that our country, state, and communities will benefit from his service.

Thank you for your consideration of my thoughts. I am more than happy to comment more if needed, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,



Kathryn Van Tighem