

March 24, 2025

The Honorable Steve Daines  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tim Sheehy  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Daines and Senator Sheehy:

I am pleased to recommend Kurt G. Alme for the position of United States Attorney for the District of Montana in the Trump Administration. I had the good fortune to serve in the position throughout the George W. Bush Administration and for nearly a year of the Obama Administration. Given my background, I have definitive views on the qualities, skills, and background that one should possess to serve as U.S. Attorney in Montana. I believe that Kurt is the most qualified attorney for the role and best prepared to serve the State with distinction.

I am very familiar with Kurt's attributes, having known him well since we met at a national student council convention in 1981 when we were delegates from different Montana high schools. In the intervening forty-four years, I have had the opportunity to observe him in a variety of contexts, including his tenure as an Assistant U.S. Attorney while I was U.S. Attorney from 2003 through 2009 and when he served as the Governor's Budget Director in 2021 during my second term as a state legislator. I have often remarked that he is the most gifted person I know. The observation is not based upon intellect and ability alone, but rather a composite of brainpower coupled with his decency, genuineness, competence, commitment to the well-being of others, work ethic, diligence, steadiness, compassion, discipline, humility, integrity, loyalty, decisiveness, and cheerfulness. I have been fortunate to know many talented people, but I know no one who measures up the way Kurt does.

My enthusiasm about his potential nomination is based not only upon my understanding of these strengths, but also from his work as U.S. Attorney during the first Trump Administration. His leadership as U.S. Attorney from 2017 through 2020 is powerful evidence in favor of his re-nomination to serve Montana as U.S. Attorney again. His efforts as U.S. Attorney got stellar reviews from law enforcement agencies and prosecutors for his vision on enhancing public safety and engaging local government, state government and non-profit organizations to develop and implement initiatives. At the same time, he effectively led the prosecutors in the office to aggressively prosecute crimes in federal court, leading to a substantial increase in federal prosecutions in Montana. Kurt has clarity regarding the management demands of the U.S. Attorney's Office. He has worked with and supervised a number of the attorneys and staff in the office. With his awareness of the office, its personnel, its history, and the demands placed on the U.S. Attorney in terms of leadership, management, and strategic planning, no one is more equipped to serve in the role than Kurt.

**Location**

401 North 31st Street, Suite 1200  
Billings, MT 59101-1277

**Mailing Address**

P.O. Box 639  
Billings, MT 59103-0639

**Contact**

p: 406.252.2166 | f: 406.252.1669  
www.hollandhart.com

To effectively lead the U.S. Attorney's Office, it is important, if not essential, that the U.S. Attorney have experience doing the work being performed by his Assistant U.S. Attorneys. It is hard to oversee the work of the office without understanding what it takes to do the work. Kurt would bring extraordinary knowledge of the craft of a prosecutor to the job. When we worked together during his years as an Assistant U.S. Attorney, Kurt worked as a white collar crime prosecutor and established a reputation as thorough and dogged in working with investigators and determining whether the facts at hand were adequate to meet the burdens established in the relevant statutes to prove criminal conduct. His work led to many convictions through jury trials and plea agreements in fraud cases, including defendants who executed complex schemes which were difficult to unravel. He served as lead counsel in 119 investigations, which led to charges against 83 defendants and 6 forfeitures. He represented the government in dozens of contested hearings, including detention and suppression hearings, motions to dismiss, sentencing, and probation revocations. His work also included appeals. Kurt argued ten cases in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and authored twenty-three appellate briefs.

In late 2006, Kurt agreed to serve as the First Assistant U.S. Attorney (FAUSA). The FAUSA serves as the senior career civil servant in the office and acts on behalf of the U.S. Attorney in circumstances in which the latter is recused or unavailable. The FAUSA is also the chief of operations and responsible for day-to-day management of the office. Kurt and I had regular and frequent interactions during this time period. Although I would have described him with many of the traits listed above before we worked together in this capacity, over those three years I saw them in him on many occasions.

I would like to note the range of professional and community experience that Kurt possesses because it is relevant to his potential as U.S. Attorney. First, he has a broader perspective on legal practice than most lawyers, which he would again draw upon as U.S. Attorney. In addition to his time as a prosecutor and manager in the U.S. Attorney's Office, Kurt has been a civil litigator, a commercial lawyer, a general counsel to a sophisticated non-profit foundation, a chief operating officer for another sophisticated non-profit, and a law clerk. It is also noteworthy that his government management experience is not limited to the federal government. He served as the Director of the Montana Department of Revenue for Governor Martz for more than two years and gained valuable experience in public sector management in one of the largest state agencies during his tenure. And, as mentioned previously, he led the Office of Budget and Policy Planning for Governor Gianforte in 2021. Finally, his involvement in the community has been substantial and offers Kurt insight into building coalitions and the extent of the crime problems facing Montana communities.

It should go without saying that I could spend a great deal more time describing Kurt's strengths and relevant experience. I will be happy to do so if you wish. However, for now, I will say that the Trump Administration and the people of Montana would benefit from Kurt's service as U.S. Attorney. I know of no better candidate for the job and hope he has the opportunity to serve in the position once again.

Sincerely,



William W. Mercer  
Partner  
of Holland & Hart LLP

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