

*The Big Sky Country*



**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**REPRESENTATIVE JIMMY PATELIS**  
HOUSE DISTRICT 52

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Dear Senator Daines,

It is with great privilege and honor that I recommend to you, Kurt Alme for consideration as the next United States Attorney for the great State of Montana. I have known Kurt personally and professionally for over twenty five years and consider him a trusted friend.

I met Kurt in 1992 while I was employed as a United States Probation Officer for United States District Judge Charles Lovell in Helena, Montana. A short time after this, Kurt was appointed as a law clerk by Judge Lovell. I worked with Kurt on many complex criminal sentencing cases that paralleled the Federal Sentencing Guidelines. While Kurt did receive a prestigious law degree from Harvard Law School, he has always been perceived as a humble man. He communicates very well with everyone that he has contact with. All of the diverse people that Kurt worked with and including staff of the United States Probation Office not only liked Kurt personally but respected him for his professionalism.

After serving as a law clerk Kurt became an Associate and later a Partner with the law firm of Crowley, Haughey, Hanson, Toole and Deitrich (currently Crowley Fleck PLLP) in Billings, Montana. Again, Kurt excelled in this position and was considered an outstanding attorney who paid very close attention to detail. Kurt was perceived as very open, direct and honest in his practice of law.

In 2001 at the request of the Montana Republican Governor, Kurt accepted an appointment as Director of the Montana Department of Revenue. He helped stabilize a very large government agency and his leadership skills had a very positive impact throughout the entire agency.

In 2003, Kurt was hired as an Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) in Billings, Montana. I was serving as the supervisor for the United States Probation Office in Billings and again I was able to work with him regarding criminal sentencing. Kurt was well respected by all the staff of the various agencies that he had

contact with in his position as AUSA. His enthusiasm and hard work ethic was appreciated and admired by all who had contact with him. For the next seven years I worked with Kurt and watched him advance to leadership positions within the United States Attorney's Office.

Kurt is a very committed and loyal individual. This was evident during 2010 when an election change occurred and a new United States Attorney was put in place for Montana. Kurt decided to resign his AUSA position because of loyalty to the United States Attorney for whom he worked. There was a void in leadership when Kurt left and many of the innovative programs within the United States Attorney's Office and the United States Probation Office were stifled.

I firmly believe that Kurt has all the attributes, skills, knowledge, abilities, experience and education to excel as the United States Attorney for Montana.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Patelis

Retired Chief United States Probation Officer/House Representative H.D. 52, State Legislator