

Excerpted quotes by ADEC Commissioner Jason Brune, from his comments at the Resource Development Council breakfast

March 21, 2019

The full speech is available on Vimeo, courtesy of the Resource Development Council: <https://vimeo.com/325737727>. Quotes are marked with time in the recording for convenience in locating the full context of the comments.

3:49 “DEC’s mission – I think this is very important to read. There are a couple of key words in here and I’m going to read it word for word: Conserving, improving, and protecting Alaska’s natural resources and environment to enhance the health, safety, economic, and social well-being of Alaskans. ... That word that’s so important to me in that, that you have to really focus on, is economic. Our economy depends on responsible development of natural resources.”

7:04 “Governor Dunleavy has set a message that I am excited to try to enact, and that is that Alaska is open for business.”

7:55 “One of the ways we’re proving that we’re open for business is, we’re pushing back.”

8:37 “The Governor also asked us, on the first cabinet meeting, he said, ‘I want you to go through each of your regs. I want you to ask your staff, what is it you do?’ And so I’ve done that. I’ve done that to my directors, and I’ve said, ‘We need to make sure that we have the statutory authority for every single action we take. We need to make sure that we’re doing no more and no less than what the legislature and the federal government has tasked us to do.’ And so we went through the regs at DEC. My directors went through them. Each of the departments at the state went through them, and all of the departments identified over 100 regulation packages that can be either completely eliminated or significantly reformed to show that Alaska’s open for business. Nearly half of them came from my department, so I’m kind of happy about that.”

9:25 “One example of a need for regulation reform are c-plans, contingency plans. We have nearly 50 pages of regulations on how to put a c-plan together. They are getting ov—Just like the NEPA process and EIS’s, they’re getting huge. They’re getting way too burdensome. We need to make sure we have good c-plans but we need to make sure that they’re effective tools for industry as well as for the agency.”

9:57 “As we’re talking about regulation reform, I want to ask a specific request from each of you. Please, look through the regs that oversee your businesses. If there are things that you see in there that are overly onerous, that are unnecessary, that aren’t protecting our environment, come and tell me. Tell Lynn. Tell our team. We need to make sure that we’re showing that Alaska is open for business but we can’t– we don’t know everything that you do. We need to make sure that we hear from you what we can do to help make Alaska open for business.”

22:43 “This Sunday is the anniversary of the Exxon Valdez oil spill. I came up to Alaska as a biologist. I had an internship with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and I worked on oiled sea otters. That helped influence who I am today. It influenced our whole state. You— we had a choice at that point. We could either oppose responsible resource development going forward or we could make sure that we were

going to put every precaution in place to ensure that something like that would never happen again. Alyeska has been a leader in doing that. I think it's a testament. We are the world model with the SERVS program, and with the double-hull tankers, and the escort—escorting that goes out of Prince William Sound. That's the way to do it. And we need to remember days like this to ensure that something like that never happens again."

24:57 "When I was speaking at the Alaska Forum on the Environment, I was asked, 'What is the biggest environmental problem in Alaska?' I thought about it for a second, and I thought, you know, it's the consistency of our individual environmental ethic. It is holding companies like yours to a standard much higher than you hold yourselves. That's grossly inappropriate."

26:02 "We hold industry to a far higher standard than we hold ourselves."

27:45 "I look forward to working with all of you over the next four years and thank you all for your support, the many letters that many of you wrote. I'm excited to show that, and work very hard to show that, Alaska is open for business."