

## **CONFIRMING JOSHUA KINDRED AS A FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE**

Passed: 54-41

### **SUMMARY:**

The Senate confirmed Joshua Kindred, a career fossil fuel industry enabler, to be a U.S. District Judge for the District of Alaska. (*February 12, 2020, Roll Call No. 41*)

### **BACKGROUND:**

Joshua Kindred has spent much of his career opposing efforts to protect the environment and address climate change. As counsel for the Alaska Oil and Gas Association, he advocated for unrestricted oil and gas development across the state and repeatedly opposed sensible policies designed to conserve Alaska's natural resources. Believing that oil and gas company profits should outweigh environmental and public health concerns, Kindred argued against public comments on drilling projects, against protections for critical salmon habitat, and against well-established regulations on natural gas leaks under the Clean Air Act.

Despite saying that "the onus should be on the science and data to drive regulatory scope and direction," Kindred consistently disregarded science when it was inconvenient for industry interests. For example, he suggested that "hydraulic fracturing... does not pose any harm to the environment," whereas there is a broad scientific consensus to the contrary. He also stated that "oil and gas activities do not threaten polar bears," whereas scientific findings have repeatedly shown that oil and gas development pose numerous direct and indirect threats to polar bears as individuals and as a species. Kindred joined the U.S. Department of Interior as the Alaska Regional Solicitor in 2018 before President Trump nominated him to serve on the U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska.

### **OUTCOME:**

On February 12, 2020, the Senate confirmed Joshua Kindred to be a U.S. District Judge for the District of Alaska, 54-41. "Nay" was the pro-conservation vote.