

Senator Lesil McGuire
 Office of Senator McGuire
 Rules Committee Chair
 State Capitol, Room 103
 Juneau, AK 99801-1182

February 27, 2014

Dear Senator McGuire:

Thank you for sponsoring Senate Bill 140 “An Act creating the Arctic Infrastructure and development program and fund in the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority.” As you are aware through your work as a Senator and Co-Chair of the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission, there are significant infrastructure needs in rural Alaska and the Arctic in particular. High energy costs, lack of transportation infrastructure (roads and ports), lack of broadband, etc. are significant barriers to developing the economy of Arctic communities and pose challenges protection of subsistence resources, safe maritime transportation and resource development in the Arctic. Addressing these existing gaps in basic infrastructure will require significant investment.

NANA Regional Corporation, Inc. (NANA) is one of the 13 Regional Alaska Native corporations created pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971. NANA has more than 13,500 shareholders descended from the Iñupiat of Northwest Alaska, 6,000 of which live within the NANA region. The Arctic is and will continue to be our home for many generations to come. NANA’s mission is to improve the quality of life for our people by maximizing economic growth, protecting and enhancing our lands, and promoting healthy communities with decisions, and behaviors inspired by our Iñupiat Illitqisiat values consistent with our core principles.

NANA works to evaluate how it can enhance lands and utilize other resources to improve the economic conditions for its shareholders in Northwest Alaska while protecting our subsistence culture and resources. We sought, and continue to seek partners to work with us in this mission. As a region we recognize how AIDEA can play a critical role in resource development projects through infrastructure development like the Delong Mountain Transportation System. Our work evaluating the barriers to economic development has shown that the most significant challenges in developing the economy or in being prepared to protect our subsistence and human resources are the high cost of energy and lack of infrastructure. Tackling these challenges will require public and private partnerships and direct investment from the state and federal governments. AIDEA can continue to be an important part of the solution for the Arctic through SB 140.

Sincerely,



Marie N. Greene

President and CEO

CC:

Senator Donny Olson

Representative Ben Nageak