



The Honorable Representative Nageak,
The Honorable Speaker of the House Chenault
House Resources Committee, Majority and Minority Leaders
29th Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

**Subject: Letter of Support for House Bill 105
Relating to AIDEA Bonds, Programs, Loans, LNG Project**

Dear Distinguished Representatives,

Furie Operating Alaska, LLC (“Furie”) is a new Cook Inlet oil and gas exploration and development company. In 2011, we brought the first jack-up drilling rig to the Cook Inlet in two decades. This spring and summer, we will be installing the first offshore production platform in the Cook Inlet since the Osprey in 2000. Furie is forecasting our first natural gas production in October 2015.

Furie’s successful exploration program, natural gas discovery, and upcoming production infrastructure can be accredited in part by the forward-thinking legislative actions that established the Cook Inlet exploration and development tax credit programs. This extremely successful program is evidenced by new oil and gas E&P companies coming to Alaska to do business, the resurgence of new businesses and economic development across the Kenai Peninsula, increased natural gas reserves and production, the restarted LNG shipments to Japan, the hopeful reopening of the Agrium Fertilizer plant, and all of the direct and indirect jobs that have been created for Alaskans.

In recent years, the Cook Inlet region has went for an pending energy crisis and talk of the south-central residents “freezing in the dark” to a position of excess natural gas reserves and deliverability. It is clear that the benefits of the oil and gas tax credit programs are now realized by the residents living between Homer and Talkeetna. However, the resources of the Cook Inlet do not just belong to these residents, they belong to all of the people in Alaska. It is time to share these resources, and the benefits derived from them, with the rest of Alaska communities.

I remember growing up in Anchorage, before natural gas was abundantly supplied to our homes and businesses. I remember watching the roads being torn up while I was learning to drive, so the natural gas distribution lines could be brought to our homes. And I remember converting our furnace from diesel to natural gas and listening to my parents praise for the lower heating and electrical costs. Now as an adult and father, I fully understand the importance natural gas has made to my life and the lives of my children. Wouldn’t it be great if other families across the state could realize the life-changing benefits of lower energy costs?

During the Last administration, Governor Parnell put into motion and Interior Energy Project (“IEP”) that focused on supplying interior and other rural communities with affordable energy. This project was supported and approved by the 28th Alaska Legislature. Now under the new administration, Led by Governor Walker, we have the second step being put into motion through House Bill 105 and Senate Bill 50. Again, it is time for the forward-thinking Legislative body to consider the benefits of these Bills and how they could positively impact our fellow Alaskans families, businesses and lives. I trust the 29th Legislature will follow in the 28th Legislature’s footprints.

Growing up in Alaska, I had listened year after year about a bridge to Pt. MacKenzie, a train to Nome, moving the Capital and making it more accessible to Alaskans, and of course... the natural gas pipeline from the North Slope. After decades of these talks, studies, and failed proposals – these feel more like dreams than potential realities. By increasing AIDEA’s bonding and loan programs, and approving it’s ability to take part in an in-state LNG project, we will have the tools in our hands to make the IEP a reality next year, and not in our grandchildren’s lifetime. Your approval of HB 105 and SB 50 could bear immediate fruit, and allow the resources of the Cook Inlet to be shared with those communities not fortunate enough to have them in their back yard. Maybe a pipeline from the North Slope can be built before the natural gas reserves really run out in the Cook Inlet. But until then, let’s move forward with something that is in our grasps today.

Like most Alaskan’s, I remember the formation of AIDEA, and the small successes it had during it’s infancy. Of course, like most organizations, there were some projects that did not go as planned. We tend too often to focus on the negative and the past failures. Instead, we should be focusing on the hugely successful projects and benefits that AIDE has provided Alaska and its businesses and families... Ketchikan Shipyard, Red Dog Mine, FedEx Hanger, Hydroelectric projects, even the Endeavor Jack-Up Drilling Rig... to name just a few. The current management at AIDEA if committed to doing things right and making a profit for Alaska, while at the same time, increasing economic development and enhancing the lives of Alaskans. AIDEA is the perfect conduit for making the IEP a reality.

The approval of HB 105 and SB 50 will increase economic development and supply the private sector with increased activity, new jobs, and create new business opportunities. Having this program administered by the State of Alaska through AIDEA will insure the projects success and implementation sooner than it would through the management by competing interests in the private sector. The goal is to provide affordable energy to our less fortunate fellow Alaskans; the trickle-down effect will result in positive impacts and increased revenue throughout the private business sector.

In closing, I would also like to point out that this project will open new natural gas markets to the Cook Inlet producers. This will allow such producers to diversify their natural gas delivery portfolios. It will also increase competition and should lower local Cook Inlet energy prices. Because of this, Furie supports your approval of HB 105 and SB 50 during this Legislative Session.

As a life-long Alaskan, I also personally support the efforts of these two Bills, and urge your continued support of the IEP and approval of these Bills.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate in contacting me.

Respectfully Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce Webb". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Bruce Webb
Senior Vice President