

Megan Holland

From: Bee Long [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2021 12:31 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: HB170 Alaska Energy Independent Act

HB 170 ALASKA ENERGY INDEPENDENT ACT

Dear Chairs Representative Zack Fields and Representative Ivy Spohnolz and members of the House Labor and Commerce Committee,

I would be more inclined to support this bill if AIDEA was not the gatekeeper of the whole process.

FOR THE REASONS STATED BELOW, I SUPPORT AMENDMENT 5 WHICH WOULD RESTRUCTURE THE AIDEA BOARD IN ORDER TO GIVE THE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE OF PUBLIC OVERSIGHT.

I have had dealings with AIDEA for years regarding their controversial proposed projects like the Ambler Road and the West Susitna Access. AIDEA Board resolution process approving projects and appropriations is not only not transparent, but to my mind borders on violating the open meetings act regulations.

For instance, in 2020 AIDEA spent 68% of its public board meetings in Executive Session in the middle of their meetings. Then they come back into session and vote unanimously. One month they start with an AEA board meeting and then reverse order the next month. One cannot find out when the second meeting starts. The best interest of the public has been disenfranchised big time. Call such corruption, or open meetings violations, or incompetence, but there is a lack of trust.

And basically, there is no oversight. Amendment 5 would go a long way toward rectifying this situation, I hope.

Some Representatives said in the House Energy hearing on HB 170 that this situation should be dealt with in a stand-alone bill. That won't happen and certainly not in this session. It should be dealt with now as this bill gives AIDEA increased authority. Deal with it now.

Restore public confidence. IF IT IS NOT DEALT WITH, THEN THE LEGISLATIVE INTENT OF THIS BILL WILL SURELY BE CORRUPTED.

In closing, this is in reference to an AIDEA appropriation of \$250K to \$500,000 to manage Ambler road stakeholders. That might have made more sense five years ago. But now?!?!

Becky Long
Talkeetna AK

Megan Holland

From: Mary Burtness [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, April 24, 2021 9:32 AM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Subject: Comment HB 170

- I believe Alaska having a Green Bank is so important to move alternate energy forward in our state. It will also help us become less dependent on oil. However I have some concerns about the AIDEA's oversight. AIDEA does not have my trust because of some past actions. Therefore consider these ideas:
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- Amend the bill to make it clear that **AIDEA's large expenditures** (for example over \$5M) **are subject to legislative oversight.**
- Amend the bill to ensure the **primary purpose of any project funded is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and/or increase energy efficiency.**
- Amend the bill to **ensure transparent public process** (i.e., 30 days notice for public comment on resolutions and a publicly available document showing AIDEA's record of its use or rejection of factual or other substantive public comments).
- We support broadening the advisory board so more **state and tribal experts inform decision-making** and allocating **35% of lending to rural Alaskans and providing technical assistance** to support community access respectively.
- We also support **diversifying the AIDEA board composition.**

Thank you for your time,
Mary Burtness