

## Stuart Relay

---

**From:** Santa Claus [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 15, 2025 5:49 PM  
**To:** House State Affairs  
**Cc:** Communications@AIDEA.org  
**Subject:** AIDEA & HB 124: PUBLIC TESTIMONY/COMMENT

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

### ALASKA HOUSE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

### HOUSE BILL 124: THE AIDEA ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

### PUBLIC COMMENT/TESTIMONY:

**This is Santa Claus in North Pole. I support Alaska House Bill 124.: The AIDEA Accountability Act.**

The AIDEA Act addresses Authority membership, officers, public notices, public comments, justification of Authority decisions on regulations, limiting the value of the Authority's funds and accounts and assets, project oversight, Authority members' conflicts of interest and voting, annual audit of accounting of assets and submission of the accounting report and audit to the Legislature, notification of all Authority actions, public availability of AIDEA communications and records, and prior review of proposed lawsuits. All of the elements of HB 124 are intended to compel the Authority to be accountable to the Legislature and the general public and are designed to benefit all Alaskans.

Furthermore, regarding AIDEA:

I agree with the Executive Director of the Alaska Chapter of the Sierra Club that:

"AIDEA is a public corporation meant to serve Alaskans but they have a history of making decisions motivated by politics instead of economics. Amongst those was their decision to be the main bidder on tracts in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge during the last lease sale in 2021. No major oil companies bid, and the small ones who did have since willingly returned their leases because they all see the reality: drilling in the Arctic is just bad business. Not to mention, opening up that pristine wilderness to development would be environmentally devastating."

I also agree with the Northern Alaska Environmental Center that:

1. "AIDEA should be transparent about how state funding is spent. That means more than a few days notice of multi-million-dollar decisions that impact us all. It also means posting meeting times well in advance and making public comments by phone a priority instead of an afterthought. Alaska's current reliance on oil ties funding for basic services to a boom and bust commodity market. We were already struggling to balance our budget and now are in the midst of an unfolding climate catastrophe. This is not a time to double down on oil."

2. "AIDEA is planning on approving two new resolutions, G25-01 & G25-02, that would designate new accounts in AIDEA's Revolving Fund (essentially a slush fund). This would help them justify spending millions of dollars in public funds on seismic surveying for oil and gas in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and continue their pursuit of the proposed Ambler Road... Neither project has any proven

economic value to Alaskans and AIDEA continues to refuse to release an economic report on their performance—paid for with public funds—because they did not like what the report found."

**Please support Alaska House Bill 124: The AIDEA Accountability Act.**

Thank you.

**Submitted by Santa Claus, North Pole, Alaska 99705-0122**

**April 15, 2024 from** 

## Stuart Relay

---

**From:** Bee Long [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 15, 2025 1:43 PM  
**To:** House State Affairs  
**Subject:** HB124

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I support the passage of HB 124.

I have had problems with AIDEA for years with the way they have little public notice for important resolutions that concern important public policy decisions. They regularly have 1 to 3 hour executive sessions in the middle of a public board meeting. This has the effect of impeding public involvement because it dissipates public involvement. Their meeting actions show a lack of transparency. Because of all this, I have stopped attending and commenting under public comment in their board meetings. Because what is the use?

In particular, I support in the bill the addition of 4 new public members, especially the members that represent an environmental advocacy organization and former legislators.

I support the new section of project oversight, especially before agreeing to spend more than \$10 million on a project.

I support the amendment that a board member cannot vote on a resolution or regulation if there is an indirect connection to those entities in a contract or lease.

Please pass this bill out of committee.

Becky Long  
Talkeetna

## Stuart Relay

---

**From:** Krystal Lapp [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 15, 2025 1:16 PM  
**To:** House State Affairs  
**Subject:** Support for HB 124 – AIDEA Must Be Held Accountable

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

To the House State Affairs Committee,

I am writing to express my deep concern about the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority's (AIDEA) continued pattern of poor public notice and lack of transparency, particularly related to Resolutions G25-01 (Ambler Road) and G25-02 (ANWR Oil & Gas Leases), which are scheduled for action at AIDEA's April 16 Board meeting.

AIDEA consistently provides minimal public notice for decisions involving the expenditure of tens of millions in public funds. Many Alaskans, including myself, find it difficult to participate in these processes or offer timely comments due to these opaque and rushed practices.

Both the Ambler Road and ANWR lease projects lack demonstrated public benefit, face widespread Tribal and local opposition, and continue to drain public resources without clear oversight. Despite this, AIDEA is now proposing to move millions of dollars into new accounts within its Revolving Fund to continue advancing these projects—without public input or meaningful legislative review.

***House Bill 124 is a much-needed step toward ensuring that AIDEA is answerable to the people of Alaska.*** I strongly support the intent of HB 124 and urge you to move it forward, strengthen its accountability mechanisms, and ensure that AIDEA's spending is subject to greater legislative oversight.

AIDEA must not be allowed to operate as a rogue agency with unchecked financial authority. I appreciate your attention to this matter and urge you to take swift action to ensure transparency, accountability, and respect for public process.

Sincerely,  
Krystal Lapp  
Fairbanks, Alaska