

# House Bill 247

“An Act relating to the climate change response fund and grant program; relating to a new oil surcharge; and providing for an effective date.”

- Sponsor: Representative Andy Josephson
- Staff: Joe Meehan

Climate is what we  
expect, weather is  
what we get.

Mark Twain

BrainyQuote®



Our climate has changed  
and our weather is clearly  
affecting us:

- Floods
- Mudslides
- Avalanches
- Erosion – coastal and riverine
- Storms – wind, rain, coastal
- Glacial ablation
- Wildfires

Rural Alaska

For Subscribers

## Woman found dead, dozens rescued and over 1,000 displaced after storm devastates Western Alaska

By Michelle Theriault Boots, Iris Samuels, Chris Aadland  
Published: October 13, 2025

Weather

## A summer of weather extremes set up Alaska for devastating August wildfires. Scientists say it's likely to happen again.

By Michelle Theriault Boots  
Published: August 21, 2019

## Haines Highway outbound lane blocked by landslide

The Haines Borough Police Department is advising travelers to drive with caution around Mile 12

Alaska News

## Yukon flooding leaves Eagle Village in ruins

By Rena Delbridge  
Published: May 10, 2009

## Typhoon Halong Creates Alaska Disaster as Communities Face Winter

Julie H. Case

October 23, 2025

## Juneau's Auke Lake Trail reopens after September landslide

Published: Nov. 23, 2025 at 7:02 PM AKST





## HB 247 would...

- ✓ ...not change the weather,
- ✓ ...establish a fund to help Alaskan's mitigate and abate climate impacts,
- ✓ ...be funded by a new oil production surcharge,
- ✓ ...authorize DEC to administer a grant program,
- ✓ ...establishes a process and criteria for awarding grants.

**Everybody talks  
about the weather,  
but nobody does  
anything about it.**

**Charles Warner**



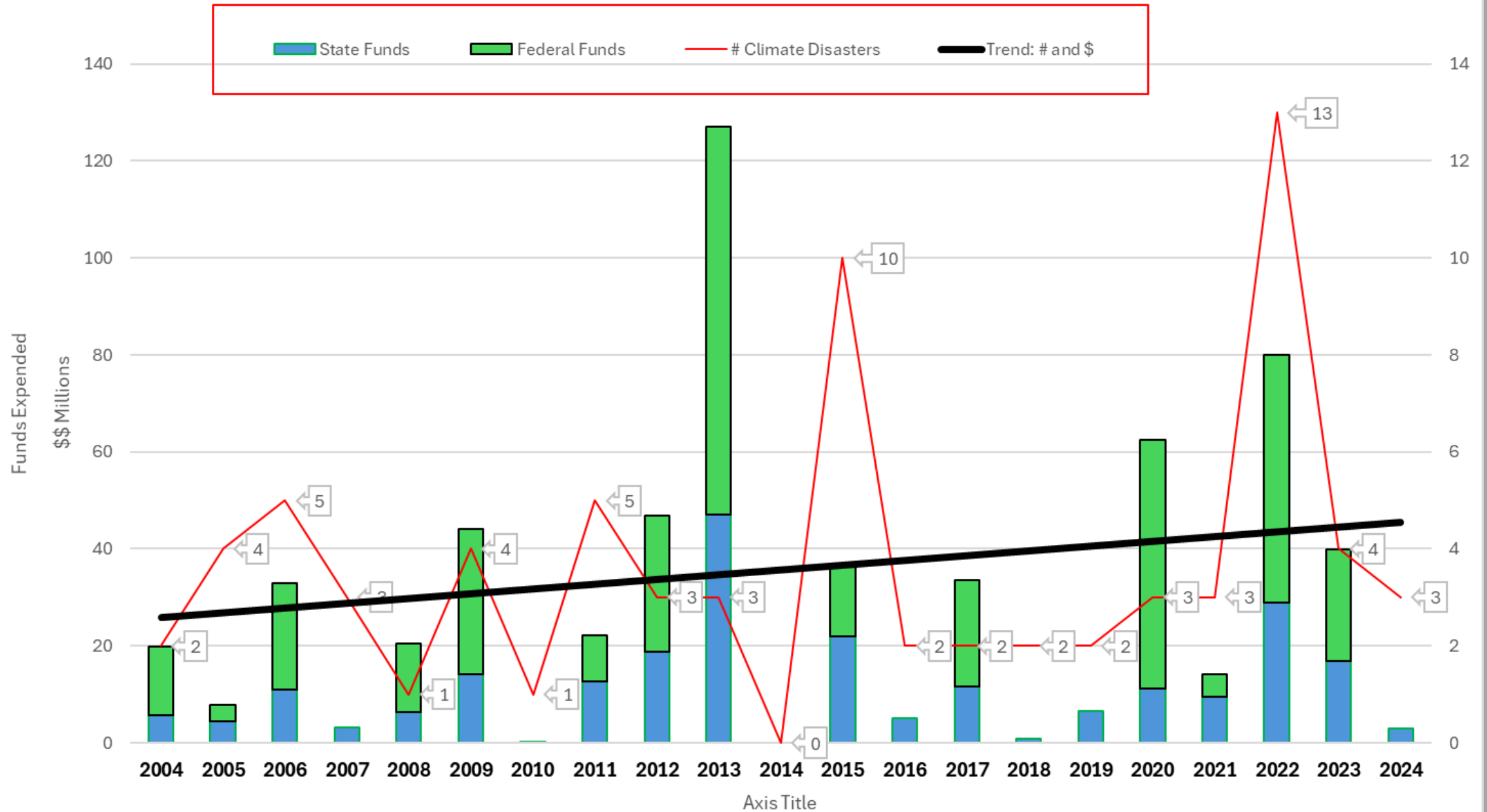


## State declared “disasters” 2004 to 2024

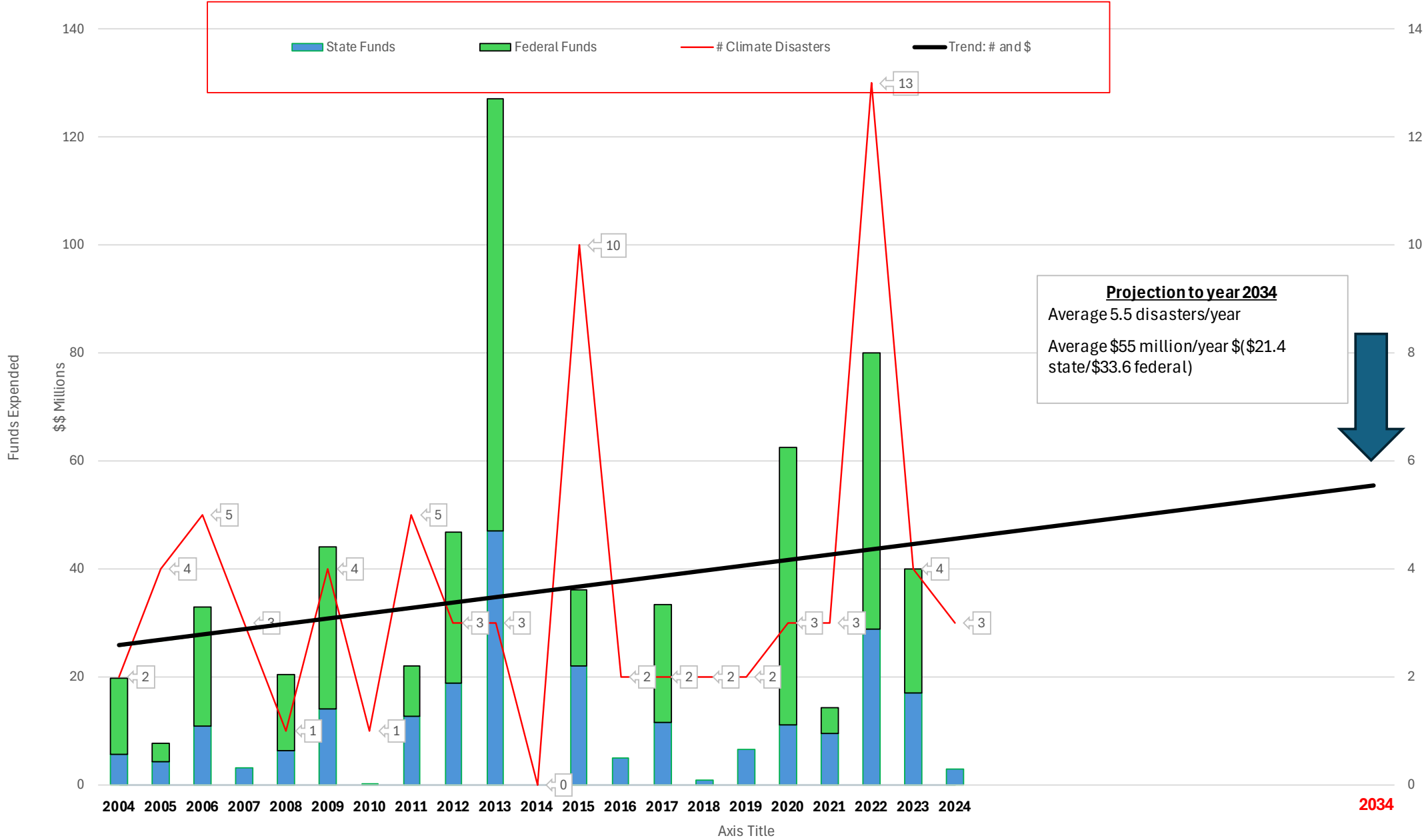
- 78 climate-related (10 wildfires)
- \$233 MM in SOA funds (avg \$11 MM/year) - annual GF appropriation to the Disaster Relief Fund
- \$367 MM in federal funds (avg \$17.5 MM/year)
- Non-disaster wildfires: approx. \$1.16 B (avg \$55.1 MM/year) - SOA and federal funds



## Alaska Climate-related Disaster Declarations 2004 - 2024



Alaska Climate-related Disaster Declarations 2004 - 2024





# HB 247

## Amends AS 43.55:

- New surcharge of 20 cents per each taxable barrel of oil, deposited to GF.
- Creates a Climate Change Response Fund within the GF, new surcharge may be allocated to new fund.
- Est \$33 MM/year with approx. 4% supporting grant administration in DEC.
- Establishes rules for reporting and paying the surcharge.

## Amends AS 44.46:

- Amends duties of DEC to administer new fund and a new Climate Change Response Fund Grant program.
- Establishes a process and criteria for administering the grant program.





# Climate Change Response Grant program:

- Open to NGOs, political subdivisions, tribal governments
- Build, repair, upgrade, or improve capital asset or other infrastructure
- Eligibility criteria: meets threshold, property loss insurance, preventative maintenance plan
- DEC to set priorities based on criteria:
  - ✓ Protect/improve public health
  - ✓ Protect/improve climate change resiliency
  - ✓ Mitigate environmental damage and loss of life and property caused by adverse weather events and climate change



# Summary:

- HB247: Proactive approach to protect our communities, infrastructure, economies, environments, and lifestyles.
- Studies have shown for every \$1 spent proactively saves \$6 in response (Nat'l Institute of Building Sciences).
- A 2017 study contracted by the Denali Commission found 144 communities in western and interior face high or moderate risks of infrastructure damage from natural hazards.
- Our cited figures only reflect declared “disasters” - impacts from climate-induced factors are likely higher.
- Future FEMA funding and assistance is uncertain highlighting the need for this fund and grant program.







Questions?