

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

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

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

Mark Twain

BrainyQuote®



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

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

Juneau's Auke Lake Trail reopens after September landslide

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



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

Typhoon Halong Creates Alaska Disaster as Communities Face Winter

Julie H. Case

October 23, 2025

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

Wonderful  quote

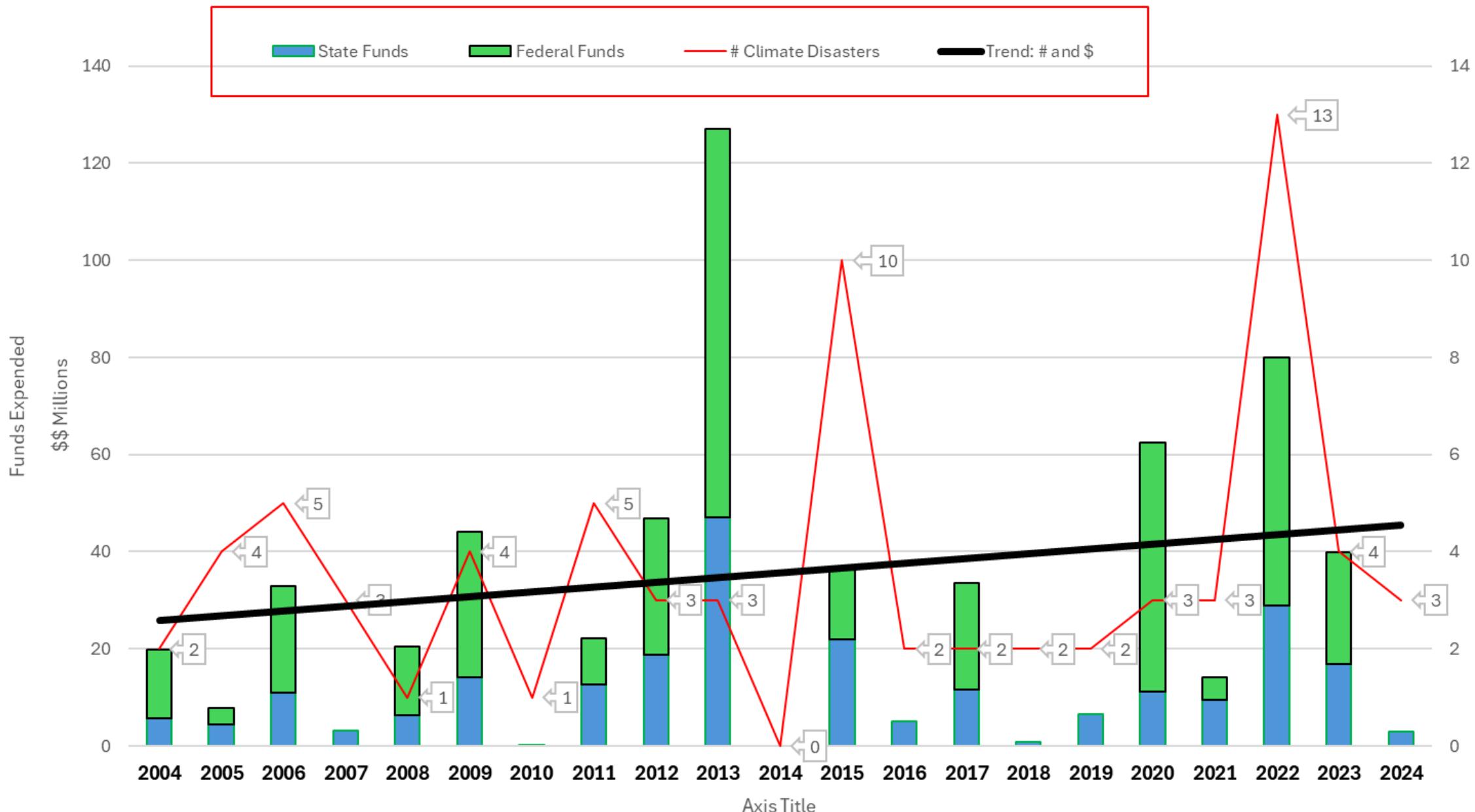


State declared “disasters” 2004 to 2024

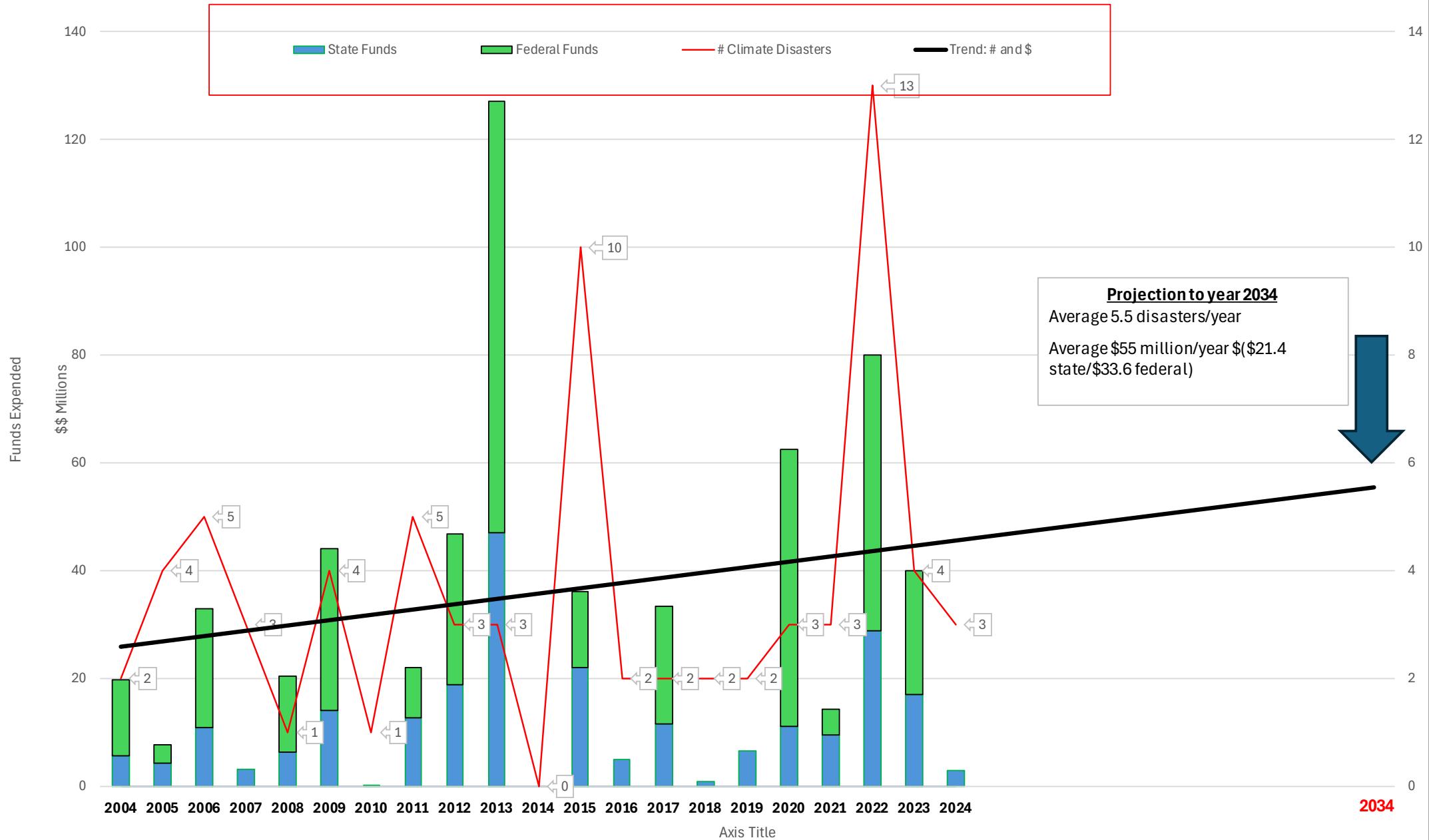
- 78 climate-related (10 wildfires)
- \$233 MM in SOA funds (avg \$11 MM/year) - annual GF appropriation to the Disaster Relief Fund
- \$367 MM in federal funds (avg \$17.5 MM/year)
- Non-disaster wildfires: approx. \$1.16 B (avg \$55.1 MM/year) - SOA and federal funds



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.

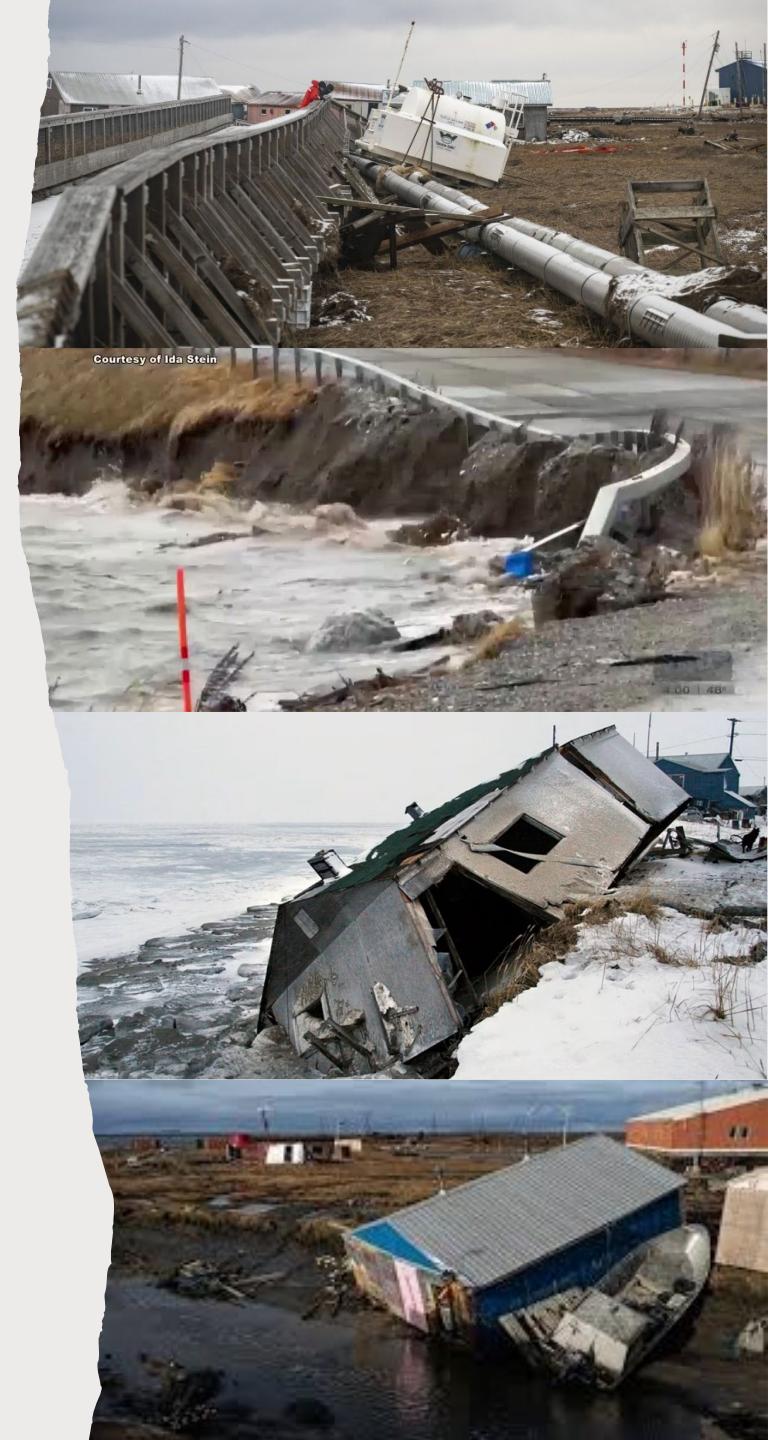
Amends AS 44.46:

- 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?