

HB 124 Written Testimony
1-29-26

Stuart Relay

From: Christa Hambleton [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 8:57 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 124

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello, my name is Christa Hambleton. I live in Bettles, Alaska. I am emailing to let my legislators know that I am in support of HB 124.

Thank you, have an excellent day,
Christa Hambleton

Stuart Relay

From: Jill Obrien [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 8:05 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Hb124

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

My name is Jill O'Brien and I am writing to express my support for HB124, the AIDEA accountability act. Alaskans deserve great transparency, stronger oversight and responsible fiscal governance.

Thank You,

Jill O'Brien

Fairbanks AK

Sent from my iPhone

Stuart Relay

From: Dustin Semaken [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 8:02 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Bill125

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi my name is Dustin semaken I live in kaltag Alaska I'm just emailing my legislators to let them know I am in support of senate bill 124 thank you Sent from my iPhone

Stuart Relay

From: Cora Hamilton [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 7:44 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Hb124

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi my name is Cora Hamilton and I live in Salcha, Alaska. I am emailing to let my legislators know I am in support of HB 124.

Thank you

Stuart Relay

From: Victoria Donnelly [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 7:10 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Support for House Bill 124

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello!

My name is Victoria Donnelly and I live in Anchorage, Ak. I am writing in to express my support for HB 124, the AIDEA Accountability Act. Alaskans deserve greater accountability, transparency, stronger oversight and fiscal governance. Thank you for your time!

Best,

Victoria Donnelly
She/They ([what is this?](#))

Stuart Relay

From: Michael Wald [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 12:21 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Support for HB 124

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Thank you for reigning in AIDEA. The lack of accountability and bloated budget of this organization needs to change. Economic development should be in response to Alaskan's needs and comments not just a corporate subsidy. Please support HB 124 and hold AIDEA to account.

Thank you

Michael Wald, Haines Alaska.

Stuart Relay

From: Sean Busby [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 11:00 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 124 - Rural Small Business Supports

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello, my name is Sean Busby, and I live in Wiseman, Alaska. I am writing in support of HB 124, the AIDEA Accountability Act.

My wife and I operate a small wilderness adventure lodge in our remote rural Arctic community. Our business depends directly on tourism, one of Alaska's most established private-sector industries and a major employer statewide. In places like Wiseman, tourism is not abstract—it is one of the few industries that provides steady employment, supports local families, and keeps money circulating locally rather than leaving the state.

When state-backed mega-projects fail or become boondoggles, the consequences do not stay isolated. They expose the state to financial risk, erode public trust, and tighten future budgets. In practice, those pressures fall hardest on rural communities and discretionary support for proven industries like tourism—industries that already operate with thin margins and limited infrastructure.

Rural communities like mine often bear the risk of these investment decisions without seeing the benefits. HB 124 is necessary to strengthen oversight, increase transparency, and reduce the likelihood that public funds are committed to high-risk projects that threaten broader economic stability.

For communities like Wiseman, responsible stewardship of public resources matters. HB 124 helps protect Alaska's proven industries and rural economies by ensuring development decisions are accountable, transparent, and grounded in clear public benefit.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sean Busby
Owner / Operator, Arctic Hive
Wiseman, Alaska

Stuart Relay

From: Steven Opat [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 9:57 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Support for HB124

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi, my name is Steven Opat. I am a home and business owner in the FNSB. I am emailing to let my legislators know that I am in support of HB 124.

I support mining and development in Alaska but not every project. I promote holding AIDEA to a higher standard of accountability so that they have to listen to the Alaskan populace and don't support projects that are against our public interest.

Thank you for hearing me.

Sincerely,

Steven Opat
[REDACTED]

Stuart Relay

From: julie Roberts-Hyslop [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 9:36 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Support of HB 124

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi, my name is Julie Roberts-Hyslop. I live in Tanana Alaska and I'm emailing to let my Legislators know that I support HB 124. Thank you

Julie Roberts-Hyslop

[REDACTED]

Tanana Alaska
99777

Stuart Relay

From: Hazel Pagkalinawan [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 8:35 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 124

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi!!

My name is Hazel Pagkalinawan and I live in Bettles, AK. I am emailing to let my legislators know that I am in support of HB 124.

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

Stuart Relay

From: Athena Luke [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 8:31 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 124

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi, my name is Athena Luke I live in Fairbanks Alaska.
I am emailing to let my legislators know that I am in support of HB 124. Thank you.
Athena Luke
1432 25th Ave, Fairbanks, AK 99701

Stuart Relay

From: Aurora Barnes [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 8:06 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: AIDEA COMMENT

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello my name is Aurora Barnes and I live in Fairbank, Alaska. I am writing to strongly express my support for HB 124, the AIDEA accountability act. Alaskas deserve more transparency, stronger oversight and responsible fiscal governance. Thank you

Aurora Barnes

[REDACTED]
auroraebarnes@gmail.com

Stuart Relay

From: Sheryl Meierotto [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 7:54 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Support for HB 124

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

My name is Sheryl Meierotto and I live in Fairbanks, Alaska. I am from Evansville/Bettles, Alaska and I am letting my legislators know that I am in support of HB 124. It is extremely important that our state holds AIDEA accountable for the poor choices they make when deciding to back mega projects that are against the public interest.

Sheryl Meierotto

Proud Alaska Native and proud native Alaskan!

Stuart Relay

From: Princess Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 7:50 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 124

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Honorable members,

My name is Princess Johnson and I hope I am not too late in stating my support for HB124. AIDEA has gone on about their business using state funds without proper oversight and accountability for years. I support this bill and grateful to see it introduced!

Mahsi' choo! Thank you very much!
Princess Johnson
Fairbanks, AK

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We recognize that we work throughout the unceded territories of the Indigenous Peoples of Alaska; that our homes are located on the traditional territories of the lower Tanana Dene Athabascan Peoples. We acknowledge the ancestral & present land stewardship and place-based knowledge of the peoples of these territories.

Stuart Relay

From: Ji Montgomery [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 7:36 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Re: support for HB 124

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear whom to concern,

Hello, My name is Ji Montgomery, I live in Camp hill pa keep AIDEA accountability I'm emailing to express my support for HB 124, The AIDEA accountability act, Alaskans deserve greater transparency, stronger oversight, a state funded corporation that wastes millions of dollars every year.

From,
Ji Montgomery

Stuart Relay

From: Kathy O [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 7:22 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 124

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please support the passage of this bill. AIDEA needs more oversight with how it conducts itself as a public agency and how it spends state funds.

Kathleen O'Reilly-Doyle
Anchorage, AK

Stuart Relay

From: Brianna Silva [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 5:17 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB124 AIDEA Accountability Act Support

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good afternoon,

My name is Brianna, and I live in Fairbanks Northstar Borough. I am reaching out to express my support for HB124, the AIDEA Accountability Act. Our communities deserve closer legislative oversight with more transparency. Alaskans deserve to have their voices heard and for decisions to fairly reflect public interest.

Best Regards,
Brianna S.

Stuart Relay

From: Dan Cannon [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 3:39 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Comment in Support of HB 124

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Representatives Carrick, Story, Himschoot, Holland, Vance, McCabe, and St. Clair

As an Alaskan (based in Juneau), I was unable to make it to the public hearing today, but **I wanted to submit comments via email in support of [HB 124: An Act relating to the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority; and providing for an effective date.](#)**

I'm deeply concerned with some of AIDEA's recent high-risk investments, the largest of which often focus on extraction projects or roads to potential extraction projects (West Su Access Road, Ambler Access Road, and Oil and Gas leases within the Arctic Refuge). Many of AIDEA's larger high-risk investments have been avoided by the private sector, which, to me, raises a major red flag.

I feel these high-risk investments are not a good use of Alaska's money, especially considering the budget crisis we are in. Additionally, investments in extraction projects aren't the investments I want to see made in Alaska. I love Alaska's public lands and waters. I want to see substantial investments in education, healthcare, job training, tourism, fishing, recreation, public safety, arts and culture, childcare, or even the PFD.

I recognize that AIDEA does some good work supporting small businesses, and I'm not advocating ending AIDEA completely. I feel AIDEA has little oversight, that leadership appointments are inherently political and come with an agenda (selected by the Governor), and that the board often dodges public accountability through executive sessions, and there is a lack of much-needed legislative oversight.

Something needs to be done, and HB 124 aims to take some key steps.

Thanks for your time and consideration,

Dan

[REDACTED]

Juneau, Alaska 99801

Stuart Relay

From: Marina Storm [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 3:20 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 124

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello, my name is Marina Storm,
and I live in Ester, Alaska.

I am emailing to express my support for HB 124, the AIDEA Accountability Act. Alaskans deserve greater transparency, stronger oversight, and responsible fiscal governance.

Thank you for your time.

Stuart Relay

From: Kara Kornhauser <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 1:48 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: AIDEA Accountability Act

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

My name is Kara Kornhauser and I live in Fairbanks, Alaska. I am reaching out to express my support for HB 124, the AIDEA Accountability Act. Alaskans deserve greater transparency, stronger oversight, and responsible fiscal governance.

Thank you for your time,
Kara Kornhauser

Stuart Relay

From: MICHELE UPTON [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 1:34 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 124

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello! My name is Michele Upton Neal and I live in Lebanon, Ohio. I am writing to express my support for HB 124, the AIDEA Accountability Act. Alaskans deserve greater transparency, stronger oversight, and responsible fiscal governance.

All of America should have these basic rights of government.

Thank you for your time,

Michele Upton Neal
[REDACTED]
Lebanon, Ohio 45036

Stuart Relay

From: Steve Teshima [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 1:19 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Public Comment for HB 124

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Greetings from Wiseman,

My name is Steve Teshima and I live in Wiseman, AK. I want to express my support for HB 124 the AIDEA Accountability Act. I think it's a great idea to have members of AIDEA confirmed by the legislator since they are handling public funds, and to have members of AIDEA appointed by the governor, speaker of the house, and senate president. I think this formula will also help prevent corruption in AIDEA.

Thank you,
Steven Teshima

Stuart Relay

From: Monique Grasso [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 12:54 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: House Bill 124

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I support house bill 124/the AIDEA Accountability Act

Thank you

Stuart Relay

From: Kayelayn Brendel <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 12:31 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: AIDEA act

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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I support the house bill 124 / AIDEA Accountability Act.

Sent from my iPhone

Stuart Relay

From: Ariel Traxler [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 12:18 PM
To: House State Affairs

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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To whom it may concern,

I am in support of House Bill 124: The AIDEA Accountability Act.

Kind regards,
Ariel Traxler

Stuart Relay

From: Chad Horn [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 12:18 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: House Bill 124

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I support the AIDEA accountability Act. This isn't micromanaging it's holding people accountable and protecting our state.

-Chad Horn

Stuart Relay

From: Laura Weingartner <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 12:05 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Support for HB 124

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

My name is Laura Weingartner and I live in Fairbanks. I'm writing in support of the AIDEA Accountability Act, HB 124. We need more legislative oversights on AIDEA so decisions that spend public money reflect public interest. We Alaskans deserve greater transparency, better fiscal governance and responsible development.

Thank you for your time,
Laura Weingartner
[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Stuart Relay

From: M Breinholt [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 10:10 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 124

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello my Name is Michelle Breinholt. I live in Willow, AK. I am writing to express my support for this bill coming up and I hope it passes. One of the first things I learned when I moved here seven years ago was the AIDEA was a giant money pit that comes up with terrible projects, caters to foreign companies and has little oversight. I'm hoping HB 124 will change that.

Thank you for reading.
Michelle Breinholt
Willow, AK
[REDACTED]

Stuart Relay

From: Rosielani Enos <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 10:09 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Support for the AIDEA Accountability Act

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Attn: House State Affairs

My name is Rosielani Enos and I live in Willow, Alaska and recreate across the state. I am emailing to express my support for HB 124, the AIDEA Accountability Act. Alaskans deserve greater transparency, stronger oversight, and responsible fiscal governance.

Thank you,

Rosielani Enos

Stuart Relay

From: Barbara Schuhmann [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 9:45 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: AIDEA

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear sirs:

Please provide oversight- real oversight - for AIDEA. Please support legislation to assure the public has access to actual records and information about the finances, losses, activities, investments, plans, and all reports commissioned by AIDEA. AIDEA has been hiding it's actual poor performance.

I feel AIDEA should be abolished and its funds used for actual state purposes, rather than the way it is now. Private investors also take risks but they are tempered by reality and common sense. The state needs to stop wasting state funds.

I ask that you abolish AIDEA.

Sincerely,
Barbara Schuhmann
[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK 99712

Sent from my iPhone
Barbara Schuhmann
[REDACTED]

Stuart Relay

From: robert robertsheldon.us [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 9:35 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: House State Affairs Written Testimony on HB 124

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good morning,

Please find attached House State Affairs written testimony on HB 124:

Good afternoon Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robert Sheldon, a lifelong Alaskan from Talkeetna where I reside. I have degrees in finance and economics which I have parlayed that into facilitating economic and business development at the high latitudes such as Norway, Iceland, Greenland, Canada and yes, Alaska. I work across private and public organizations including the military.

I've served Alaskans during the past 6 governor administrations on various boards and commissions requiring legislative confirmation. Public service is a priority to the Sheldon family, so it was my distinct pleasure to serve on the AIDEA board from 2010 into 2013.

If you want to stifle business, reduce partnering with the federal government and the military, then restrict AIDEA in its role, structure or capital.

Put another way, impairing AIDEA in any way will have an immediate detrimental effect to Alaskans of all walks of life and in all areas of the state.

Lets talk about that:

Many, many Alaska small businesses are grateful benefactors of the loan participation program that without it, they may not have a loan at all. And these businesses aren't poor credits ... Alaska suffers from scarcity of capital and that loan participation program makes sure many businesses receive critical liquidity for projects and such.

Which gets me to my favorite self-designed bumper sticker: Alaska is an emerging economy saddled with a mature bureaucracy, and that makes business very, very difficult here. I am talking about our phase of development where capital is scarce due to the low participation or attention of banks and a basically non-existent venture or private capital presence.

But its not just about small businesses.

In my time at AIDEA we advanced many large scale public good projects.

+ Fairbanks Interior Gas Utility (IGU) is one I'm very proud of. We not only are reducing energy induced poverty there, but also assisting with cleaning up the air thru reducing wood for heat use.

+ We also financed the National Guard Armory at JBER: It consolidated services with synergies for the State of Alaska (via the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs) and the Coast Guard, which also improved efficiency and readiness.

+ AIDEA acted as the issuer of \$123MM tax-exempt conduit revenue bonds for Providence Health & Services. The financing helped expand healthcare infrastructure in Anchorage, supporting long-term care options and upgrades to the acute care hospital. This solidly aligns with AIDEA's mission to promote community development, healthcare access, and economic benefits through job creation and improved services in Alaska.

+ We also renegotiated the PILT at RedDog mine with Teck, which pays for a huge chunk of education funding across that region.

+ We expanded the FedEx airport facilities which demonstrated to UPS they ought to do the same, and voilà, similar traffic continues to grow there since it was so well demonstrated by FedEx with AIDEAs participation.

+ And we made certain that SETS [Sustainable Energy Transmission and Supply Development Fund] was established. That 2012 act expanded financing tools for addressing the state's energy challenges. The program aims to -and has- promote lower-cost, sustainable energy statewide by leveraging public funds with private investment for projects that demonstrate financial and technical viability.

+ And finally, AIDEA provided a loan to AEA for the acquisition of the Sterling-to-Quartz section of a 115kV transmission line from Homer Electric Association. This supports transmission infrastructure tied to Bradley Lake hydro power, benefiting regional ratepayers and the Railbelt grid. That is the lowest cost power on the whole intertie, benefitting a very large portion of Alaskans.

In my experience across the high latitudes, if it were not for AIDEA, I am sadly very comfortable asserting that these projects would not have come to pass, at least not remotely in the timing and successful way that they did.

And remember, these efforts were just some from my time on the board from 2010 into 2013.

The public good, specifically indirects, derived from AIDEA projects can be economically measured and reported. The 3.8% long term return cited earlier only measures a financial return and is probably far less than half the actual return.

I will now end with exactly how I began:

Impairing AIDEA in any way will have an immediate detrimental effect to Alaskans of all walks of life and in all areas of the state. I don't think anyone here wants to sign onto that.

Please do not cook Alaska's golden goose for some short term boost to another account which too, will soon be devoured.

Stuart Relay

From: Tracey Schaeffer [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2026 12:53 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Testimony on HB 124

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Greetings, I would like to testify in support of HB 124, sponsored by Rep. Carrick. Thank you for this opportunity.

I live in the Northwest Arctic and have been here for 30 years. My family is here and we practice a subsistence lifestyle. AIDEA is attempting to build the Ambler Road and through years of reading and hearing about them as an entity, i would like to see them eliminated but at the very least, they need more oversight. They have lost billions of state dollars. One article I read mentioned that if they hadn't lost the amount of state money they had, we would have a PFD payout that aligned with the original formula. We have watched their representatives lie to groups of concerned citizens, mostly Inupiaq, about the impact this road and the mines at the end of it would have on this region. They have lost control of other roads they have built which in turn lost the control they promised local people they would have. Any entity entrusted with the amount of state money that they are needs to be accountable and transparent.

--

Tracey Schaeffer, OTR/L
Trauma Informed Occupational Therapist and Certified Yoga Instructor
Arctic OT Services, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Want to be trauma aware? Connect before you correct and get curious, not furious!

Stuart Relay

From: Erika Burr [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2026 12:43 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: In support of the AIDEA Accountability Act

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I am writing in support of the AIDEA Accountability Act (HB 124). These reforms are crucial checks to protect Alaska's lands and resources to be developed and managed for sustainable use to benefit all Alaskans, not just a few, and not primarily out-of-state companies and groups. Thank you for taking action to protect our home and the future of Alaskans from short-sighted, irresponsible or insufficiently reviewed projects. My family and families across the state are counting on you to preserve what we love for all Alaskans, as our state constitution requires.

Erika Burr

[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK