



Alaska Forest Association

432 Carlanna Lake Rd

Ketchikan, AK 99901

E: afa@akforest.org

P: (907) 225-6114

www.akforest.org

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Alaska House State Affairs Committee
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801
Submitted via email

Dear Members of the Alaska House State Affairs Committee:

The Alaska Forest Association (AFA) writes to comment on HB 124, an Act related to the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA).

AFA is a professional membership organization founded in 1957. AFA represents members with interest in the forest products industry in Alaska. Membership includes but is not limited to timber operators, equipment suppliers, fuel distributors, tribal organizations, forest product vendors, sawmills, other affiliated industry associations and private citizens.

AFA respectfully opposes HB 124. We believe that the bill moves Alaska away from the well documented, lengthy history our industry and others have operating under the most rigorous environmental and permitting standards in the world. We accept the responsibility for these requirements because it has provided certainty, protected the public trust, and ensured decisions regarding projects critical to Alaska's economic stability and growth move forward timely, are technically sound, and free from unnecessary political interference.

AIDEA was created to support these same values. It serves as a development finance authority – evaluating projects based on technical analysis, feasibility, and public benefit free from shifting political priorities. HB 124 would fundamentally alter AIDEA's role. The bill weakens AIDEA's ability to act decisively, politicizes governance, and adds open-ended approval windows. Further, many projects across Alaska require infrastructure and financing structures beyond the capacity of the private sector to deliver independently. AIDEA exists to bridge that gap and HB 124 would weaken and threaten their ability to do so at a time when infrastructure and economic growth is critical to Alaskans.

For these reasons AFA urges legislators to oppose HB 124. Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and we look forward to any questions you may have.

Regards,

Tessa Axelson
Executive Director