

HB 124 Written Testimony

Rec'd 2-4-26

Stuart Relay

From: Kellie Lynch [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 9:27 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Support of HB 124

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To whom it may concern,

My name is Kellie Patricia Lynch. I currently live in Juneau. I am writing in support of house bill 124. I believe that projects overseen by AIDEA need more transparent spending documentation, better oversight for long term projects and proof of fiscal responsibility.

Alaskan residents deserve projects in this state that serve our communities and create long lasting jobs. Not short term projects that benefit outside companies that do not reinvest in our economy. We need better understanding of the projects proposed by AIDEA. House Bill 124 will help Alaskans understand spending and projects better.

Thank you,
Kellie Patricia Lynch

Stuart Relay

From: Christin Swearingen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 10:45 AM
To: Rep. Ashley Carrick; Rep. Andi Story; Rep. Kevin McCabe; Rep. Sarah Vance; Rep. Ky Holland; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot; House State Affairs; Rep. Steve St. Clair
Subject: In support of AIDEA Accountability Act

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Dear Representatives,

I listened to the recording of the House Affairs Committee meeting first hearing on HB 124, and was very glad to hear this issue being raised. I thought Mr. Ruoro's characterization of AIDEA's lack of consideration for the public as "not engaging in back-and-forth debate" kind of funny in a terrible way-- he means that AIDEA doesn't address public concerns, and actively insults the people whose homelands and small businesses would be harmed by projects the governor is pushing through. I like the changes suggested in Section 7 of the AIDEA Accountability Act requiring written justification for proposed actions.

I also think it's absolutely essential to have a limit on funds (Sec. 8), and to obtain free and prior consent from "the governing body of the political subdivision of the state" in Sec. 9.

Thanks for working on this, and for your service to the public!

--

Christin Swearingen (she/her)
Fairbanks AK

Stuart Relay

From: Harriet Nollner <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 3:45 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: House Bill 124

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Please do the right thing for our people and pass this act! House Bill 124: The AIDEA Accountability Act! Thank you so much and have. Great rest of the day! - Harriet Nollner of Allakaket, Alaska

Stuart Relay

From: Mama Marie <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 3:06 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Support for House Bill 124

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Hello-

I am writing to express my support of house bill 124 because of the guardrails it creates on large public investments. It creates oversights and accountability.

Thank you,
Kris Jacoby

Stuart Relay

From: Crystal Howard [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 12:20 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Support for HB 124 – AIDEA Accountability Act

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Members of the House State Affairs Committee

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 124, the AIDEA Accountability Act, currently under consideration in your committee. This bill, sponsored by Representative Ashley Carrick, seeks to update Alaska law to enhance transparency and public oversight of the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority, a state corporation created to promote economic growth, job creation, and infrastructure development in Alaska.

AIDEA has been an important engine for economic development in our state, returning dividends to the general fund and supporting major projects that benefit Alaskans. Increasing legislative and public visibility into how AIDEA operates will ensure greater accountability and public trust, while preserving its ability to execute on its mission. HB 124 addresses these needs by amending existing law relating to appointments and oversight mechanisms for AIDEA.

I believe that strengthening transparency and oversight without undermining AIDEA's ability to support sustainable economic growth is in the best interest of all Alaskans. Thank you for your consideration and for your service to our state.

Sincerely

Crystal Howard
Concerned resident of Alaska

Stuart Relay

From: Jessie David [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 12:53 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: ARP

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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We are from Allakaket, AK, 50 miles downriver from your proposed arp. I've written letters, testified, and spoken to numerous people opposing the ambler road. All this to no avail! We have few elders over 80 in our area. My husband will be 80 in 7 yrs. Over the yrs, we heard them (senior residents) say over n over again that they do not want that road built. My husband, Harold David Sr. goes on his annual trip to the very spot this road will potentially obliterate. He brings our sons and grandsons, as well as, friends or anyone interested in this trip. There are many sacred spots and traditional use areas. So, he stops only on sites that his grampa brought him 60+ yrs ago. They take care of camping grounds by leaving it the way it is. That's called respect! This is the last of precious land almost anywhere in the world. Please build these monstrosities in your back yard. Mining business is a horrible way to get rich, because doing that will destroy pristine lands and water all the way to the ocean. Wildlife, birds, and fish that we depend on for food will be drastically impacted, till there's no more. Foreign companies and ARP supporters do not concern themselves with this, as they will be greedily stuffing their pockets, while 10,000 years of family tradition will disappear. We, the residents of this area will not receive anything. There are so many other places in the world to ruin for mining, and we think what mining is in operation right now is more than enough! There is no reason to destroy more land, water, and wildlife.

Here is a picture of our grandson, Gabe, enjoying the good

12:52 [📷] [💬] ❄️



life on Sheep Mountain.

Please don't build the ARP. Thank you, Jessie David. Allakaket, Alaska

Stuart Relay

From: Hannah Brewster <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 12:21 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 124

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Hello,

My name is Hannah Brewster and I am an Anchorage resident. I am writing to express my support for HB 124, the AIDEA Accountability Act. In a time of perpetually tight budgets, Alaskans deserve greater transparency and stronger oversight over how tax dollars are spent.

Thank you for your time,

Hannah Brewster

[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK 99501

Stuart Relay

From: Sarah Histan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 12:01 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Support for House Bill 124

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear House,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 124, the AIDEA Accountability Act. This important legislation ensures greater transparency, accountability, and public oversight over the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA).

As an Alaskan, I believe that public institutions using state resources must operate with openness and integrity. HB 124 would improve reporting requirements, ensure that AIDEA's decisions align with Alaska's long-term environmental and economic well-being, and give the public a clearer understanding of how its funds are being used.

AIDEA's investments have significant impacts on our lands, communities, and fiscal future. Alaskans deserve to know where these investments go and whether they truly serve our state's best interests. HB 124 promotes responsible governance and helps rebuild trust between the public and our state agencies.

Please support HB 124 and stand for transparent, accountable management of Alaska's economic development authority.

Thank you for your time and your service to our state.

Sincerely,
Sarah Histan
Anchorage, Alaska

Stuart Relay

From: Cheryl Skibicki [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 11:43 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: SUPPORT FOR HB 124 -- AIDEA Accountability Act

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Good Afternoon,

My name is Cheryl Skibicki and I am a constituent in Skagway, Alaska zip code 99840.

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

We cannot expedite approvals for harmful extractive industries that deplete our natural resources and put communities at extreme risk. It is urgent that decision makers not let reckless development happen.

Thank you for your time.

--

Cheryl Skibicki
716-288-4026
Time Zone: AKDT

Stuart Relay

From: Hannah Hill [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 11:01 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: SUPPORT for HB124

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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To the House State Affairs Committee -

AIDEA clearly needs better guardrails to ensure it acts in Alaskans' best interest - they've lost the trust of Alaskans through years of dishonest dealings, environmental disregard & gubernatorial front loading. Representative Carrick's HB124 is a path to ethical transparency & accountability.

As a relevant example: there has been consistently widespread opposition to the 211 mile long industrial access Ambler Road project that would cross eleven major river systems with 48 bridges & 3,000 culverts through/between several National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges & other conservation units. Yet AIDEA has pushed this unpopular project forward, knowing the industrial development would irreparably harm the land, water & people of Alaska.

HB124 would help push back on the corporate greed that consistently puts profit over people.

I am in full support of HB124 & urge this Committee to move this bill forward, for Alaska's best future possible.

Thank you for your time,
Hannah C. Hill
Fairbanks, Alaska

"Love is an act of will,
both an action & an intention."
-bell hooks

Stuart Relay

From: Courtney Moore [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 9:31 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Aidea accountability HB124

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Hello,

I can't remember if I sent an email already for this issue, apologies if I did. But I still support this bill. The lack of oversight is concerning and aidea meetings should be public.

Thank you,

Courtney Moore
Government Hill

Stuart Relay

From: Theresa Nangle Obermeyer, Ph.D. [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 4:23 PM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: Attached Submission HB124 to be Posted
Attachments: HB124 Strong Support 2-2-26.pdf

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Please let me know that you have posted the below document of support for HB124.

Thank you.

Stuart Relay

From: Craig Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 10:58 AM
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB124 Public Testimony for the record

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Public Testimony – Opposing HB 124 **Craig M. Jones, Fairbanks, Alaska**

Good afternoon, Chair and members of the committee.

For the record, my name is **Craig Jones**, and I am a resident of Fairbanks. I was raised in the upper Kobuk River village of **Ambler**, and I appreciate the opportunity to testify today.

I am here to speak in **opposition to House Bill 124** because I believe it would be detrimental to the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority's ability to fulfill its mission and, in doing so, would hinder opportunities for rural and underserved communities across our state.

Growing up in rural Northwest Alaska, I experienced firsthand the challenges that come with isolation—high costs of living, limited infrastructure, and few local economic opportunities. For communities like Ambler, infrastructure investment is not an abstract policy concept; it is the difference between opportunity and stagnation.

AIDEA has played a critical role in changing that reality. One of the most meaningful examples is the **DeLong Mountain Transportation System**, which made possible the development of the Red Dog Mine. That investment did more than support a successful mining operation—it created real opportunity for people like me. I was trained and employed at Red Dog Mine early in my career, gaining skills and experience that set a solid foundation for where I am today. That is what effective development looks like: infrastructure that leads to workforce development and long-term economic mobility for Alaskans.

Beyond individual stories, AIDEA's investments have delivered lasting benefits to Northwest Alaska and the state as a whole—long-term employment, revenue sharing with local communities, durable infrastructure, and measurable financial returns to the State of Alaska. These outcomes demonstrate that AIDEA can be both economically responsible and transformative for rural regions.

House Bill 124, as proposed, would weaken AIDEA's operational effectiveness and independence. In my view, it would make it harder—not easier—for AIDEA to respond to Alaska's unique development challenges and to support the kinds of projects that lift up communities rather than leave them behind.

This concern is especially relevant as we look to the future of the **Ambler Mining District** and other resource opportunities that are critical to Alaska's economy and to national supply chains for critical minerals. Responsible development in these areas depends on having a capable, disciplined development authority with the tools and flexibility to do its job.

I respectfully urge the committee to consider the real-world impacts this legislation could have on rural Alaskans and to oppose HB 124. Preserving AIDEA's strength, independence, and effectiveness is essential if we want to continue creating opportunities across Alaska.

Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to testify.