
From: Nathan Stamm [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2022 5:26 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB170

Chairs Foster and Merrick, and Members of the Committee,

Alaska and Alaskans have a strong tradition of innovation and cooperation to meet the challenges in front of us.

HB170 offers us the opportunity to retain both innovative solutions to local energy concerns as well as the opportunity to streamline access to energy and electricity across the State.

Short of protecting the corpus of the Permanent Fund from the short-sighted and funding Pre-K educational programs, there isn't much more important than expanding and improving Alaska's sustainable and independent energy future.

Please consider approving HB170.

Respectfully,

Nathan Stamm
Anchorage

From: Kendra Zamzow [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2022 9:20 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB170

Co-Chairs Foster and Merrick, and Members of the Committee:
Please support HB170.

The Green Bank would provide a necessary funding mechanism. Please ensure that the language in HB170 or amendments to the bill ensure that the Green Bank would develop loan programs for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects for residential, commercial and community buildings.

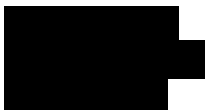
Many residents here in the Sutton and Chickaloon area would benefit from better wall insulation and better-insulated windows. However, this type of weatherization has in the past relied on grant funding, and traditional bank loans for these projects are sometimes out of reach. The Green Bank would provide information to traditional banks to encourage them to provide loans for clean energy projects, and the Green Bank would allow home-owners and businesses to pay off loans through their electric bill, which would be an easier route for many as their bills will be lower once homes and buildings are more energy efficient. Bills could also be reduced by installing heat pumps, which convert electricity to heat in an economical fashion. I imagine our own Chickaloon Community Council building could benefit from a heat pump.

Our local utility, the Matanuska Electric Association, is already engaged, through their Innovation Committee, in looking at the potential increase in electricity use and in net-metering as more people install solar panels. A recent effort to get neighborhoods to consider solar has received enthusiastic interest, with 185 people in the Sutton-Chickaloon area signing up for information and site assessments to install solar - grid tie systems. This type of "Solarize" effort is infrequent and still has high up-front costs. A Green Bank would be a consistent, reliable source of funding for this sort of project, for which there is evident interest.

We never know when inflation will hit. We do know that the fossil fuel markets will continue to be volatile. Please move this legislation forward to provide a mechanism that will help people and businesses attain lower and more stable bills for heating and power.

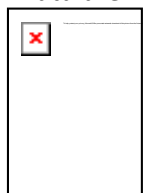
Sincerely,

Kendra Zamzow



Ts'tonhna' nene' ghestnaa et izdaa.
"I live and work on Matanuska River land"

"We are drowning in information, while starving for wisdom" - EO Wilson
"Data are not neutral" -- Kate Crawford



From:**To:****Subject:**

Friday, April 22, 2022 9:34 AM

House Finance

HB170

Dear Committee Co-Chairs Foster and Merrick, and Members of the Committee,

I am pleased to see that HB 170 is being acted on by your House Finance committee.

An Alaskan Green Bank will enable Alaskan citizens, small businesses and communities to continue to improve energy efficiency to save on expensive heating and electricity costs. Instead of leaking out windows, walls and doors, we will have money to pump back into our economy and communities. Alaskans can capture energy when the sun shines, the wind blows or the water flows, which would be an especially resilient critical add for small communities off the road system with exorbitant fuel import costs.

I believe it is essential to add language to the bill clarifying that the mission of the bank is to develop loan programs for energy efficiency and renewable energy for residential, commercial and community buildings. This will protect the program funding from improper uses, not in line with the intent of Green Banks.

Thank you for your attention to get this much-needed program off the ground!

Diana and David Evans

Rogers Park, - Anchorage

From: Wales IGAP <waa.igap99783@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2022 1:56 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB-170 Support Letter

Co-Chairs Foster and Merrick, and Members of the Committee.” (Your message will be shared with the entire Committee

I am writing to you in support of REAP for HB-170. This state would benefit quite well with this green bank. My ability to write letters isn't the best, so I will just ask nicely that everyone considers this.

--

Sincerely,

Gerald Oxereok,
Environmental Coordinator Environmental Assistant

Wales IGAP Program
Wales IRA Council
PO Box 549
Wales, Alaska 99783

Email - [REDACTED]

From: Aurora Roth <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2022 10:53 AM
To: House Finance; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Kelly Merrick; Rep. Daniel Ortiz; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Sara Rasmussen; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Bart LeBon; Rep. Ben Carpenter; Rep. DeLena Johnson
Subject: Opposition to HB170

To the members of the Alaska House Finance Committee,

My name is Aurora Roth, I am from Fairbanks and Girdwood and I am representing myself. Thank you for the opportunity for public testimony regarding House Bill 170. I am born and raised Alaskan, and I am a scientist who studies the impacts of climate change in Alaska and the Arctic. But you don't need to be a scientist to know or see how Alaskans and our communities have been experiencing the impacts of climate change. And you don't need to be a scientist to understand how further climate warming is guaranteed, with the impacts to people and communities even worse, if we continue burning fossil fuels as our energy source. Right now, every bit of fossil fuel that we don't burn matters. This is why I am an advocate for a swift and just transition to renewable energy systems in Alaska, and it's why I was initially thrilled to learn about the proposed Energy Independence Program and Fund. I have wanted to see major investment and leadership in renewable energy like this from the state for pretty much my entire life. Other green banks similar to this proposed model are catalyzing clean energy projects and lowering utility bills in at least 15 other states. However, I have deep concerns that the goals of this program will be undermined if managed by AIDEA in its current form.

It's clear from the recently introduced House Bill 271 (The AIDEA Reform Bill) that AIDEA has lost the trust of Alaskans. It has been well-documented that AIDEA is not appropriately consulting with stakeholders, like tribal governments and local communities, impacted by projects. Securing funding and capital to invest in renewable energy projects is obviously a necessary step to transition Alaska's energy economy, but having an institution managing that funding who is working in partnership with communities and tribal governments is what will allow these projects to become a sustained and celebrated reality benefiting all Alaskans. I agree with proposals calling for an explicit transparent public process and the incorporation of free, prior, and informed consent from affected tribes to be included in this bill.

I'm also concerned that no one currently serving on the AIDEA board has a background in renewable energy projects or green and regenerative economies. Having this expertise represented on the board is necessary not only for the implementation of the technical aspects of projects, but also for ensuring accurate communication and building Alaskan's trust in the management of projects.

If AIDEA is to oversee an Energy Independence Program and Fund, HB 170/SB 123 must be amended to ensure appropriate oversight and accountability. The climate and Alaskans do not have time to waste to risk renewable energy projects becoming thwarted by the mismanagement and conflicting interests of AIDEA. I am in full support of the concept of an Energy Independence Program and Fund, but I must oppose HB 170/SB 123 due to AIDEA's proposed involvement. To ensure the successful and just implementation of an Energy Independence Program and Fund, a bill should include the following:

- 1) Any capitalization of the fund should be expressly subject to the Executive Budget Act and legislative approval, as required by the Alaska Constitution;
- 2) Large expenditures (for example over \$5M) must be subject to legislative oversight;
- 3) The primary purpose of any project funded must be to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental impacts, and/or increase energy efficiency;

- 4) The bill must ensure transparent public process, including a minimum of 30 days' notice for public comment on resolutions and a written record of responses to comments;
- 5) The bill must incorporate free, prior, and informed consent from affected tribes;
- 6) Decision makers must be composed of state and tribal experts with traditional knowledge and backgrounds in, among other things, clean energy and green economies; and
- 7) At least 35 percent of lending must be allocated to rural Alaskans.

Thank you for your time and your work representing Alaskans.

Sincerely,
Aurora Roth

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Aurora Roth.

--

Aurora Roth

A black rectangular redaction box covering contact information.

Check out the tuition-FREE field science and outdoor education program that I'm involved in!
Inspiring Girls Expeditions (inspiringgirls.org)

From: Dorothy Childers <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2022 10:02 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB 170 supporting comment

Dear Co-Chairs Foster and Merrick, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to urge your support for HB 170, the exciting bill to establish an Alaska green bank. The purpose of a green bank is to advance greater investment by private sector banks in clean energy development across the state. The legislature has been wildly successful in the past with increasing energy efficiency through the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation's grant-based weatherization program. My family was a beneficiary of this program. HB 170 takes the next step to help Alaskans expand that progress into the future. A new green bank would allow home owners and businesses to borrow money with affordable terms from private banks to make energy efficiency improvements and install renewable energy capacity. Such loans would enable borrowers to pay back the loans with the money they save on their energy bills.

I also urge the committee to amend the bill by making it clear that "the priority of the green bank is to develop loan programs for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects for residential, commercial, and community buildings."

The green bank is an effective way to reduce wasteful energy inefficiency, help regular Alaskans save money, and accelerate a clean energy future for our state.

Thank you,
Dorothy Childers
[REDACTED]

From: Jeremy Vander Meer <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2022 5:57 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: support for HB 170

Dear Co-Chairs Foster and Merrick, and Members of the Committee,

I would like to voice my support for HB 170, introduced by Governor Dunleavy, to create a Green Bank that will provide low cost loans for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. I believe this is a low cost way for the state to leverage private capital to invest in our state and help reduce our energy costs.

I would also like to support the amendment, proposed by REAP, to make it clear that the priority of the green bank is to develop loan programs for renewables and energy efficiency projects for residential, commercial and community buildings.

Thank you,
Jeremy VanderMeer
Fairbanks

From: Chris Lee <lee@tidalenergycorp.com>
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2022 5:54 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: RE: HB 170 Amendment Language

Dear Co-Chairs Foster and Merrick, and Members of the Committee,

This is Chris Lee of Tidal Energy Corp, writing to express support for the establishment of a Green Bank under the authority of the AIDEA.

The priority of the green bank should be to develop loan programs for energy efficiency, renewable energy projects for residential, commercial, and community buildings.

In addition, such a Green Bank's funds should be made available for renewable energy projects that benefit local Alaskan communities in general.

Thanks in advance for your careful consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Chris Lee

President, TEC



Chris Lee - President
821 N Street, Suite 207
Anchorage, Alaska USA 99501
Cell: +1 (504) 875-8223 | Office: +1 (907) 274-7571
[Email: lee@tidalenergycorp.com](mailto:lee@tidalenergycorp.com) www.tidalenergycorp.com

From: Arlene Jasky <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2022 9:12 PM
To: House Finance

I am writing you in support of an Alaskan Green Bank to develop loan programs for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects for residential, commercial and community buildings. It's time to take America out of the "dark ages". Thanks for your consideration.

From: Michael Powell <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2022 7:10 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB 170 Please support and move forward

Greetings,

I would like to express my strong support for HB170. I encourage the committee to move this bill forward. As a homeowner and community member in Anchorage Alaska, I have benefited greatly from the housing finance corporation weatherization program. I have long understood the importance of doing my part and working smart when it comes to energy use. I am now in the final stages of establishing the necessary approvals to install net metering solar panels on my house. For me this is both a personal ambition as well as a commitment to my community and to our great state to help support a long-term solution towards sustainable energy independence.

I feel fortunate to have both the opportunity and the resources to make this happen, but I understand that many others who wish to take this step do not have these resources immediately available. The inclusion of a loan program that would provide affordable loans and educate finance organizations as well as homeowners like myself about the process would greatly facilitate this opportunity for anyone who would like to make the same commitment to this goal of sustainable energy production. I would therefore strongly encourage the approval of the amendment to “develop loan programs for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects for residential, commercial and community buildings.”

As one of the first to install solar panels in my neighborhood, I am committed to do my part to help promote renewable energy in my community. HB170 along with the above amendment will help my community do our part for Alaska.

Thank you for your service to Alaska and thank you for your consideration of this bill and this amendment.

From: Michael Powell
[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK
99517
[REDACTED]

From: Jamie Hansen [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2022 6:30 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: Amend & Support Green Bank legislation, HB 170

To Co-Chairs Foster and Merrick, and Members of the Committee,

I have been involved in clean energy planning, campaigning, and implementation in Alaska for the past 10 years. I've been rarely been on the advocacy side, but I have to take a moment to ask that the House support the green bank legislation (HB 170) and take up the following amendment language for HB 170 to make it clear that the priority of the bank is to "develop loan programs for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects for residential, commercial and community buildings."

The need for a green bank is most urgent for homeowners, small businesses, and nonprofits at the building level. I help organize the Solarize Fairbanks campaign and from my experience it's low and moderate income homeowners and nonprofits and churches that ask us -- what resources exist to help me solarize or do energy efficiency retrofits on our building? Our response has been ... Well, there are some loans with medium to very high interest rates. It all depends on your credit rating and the type of loan you will be required to take out - home improvement, personal (consumer) loans, etc.

That's just not good enough. The upfront capital cost is the reason families, nonprofits, and churches (especially) can't do robust energy efficiency upgrades or solar installs.

A green bank with a clear focus on these building owners would fix this!! It would offer loans with affordable terms to make energy efficiency improvements, enabling those borrowers to pay the loans back with the money they save on their energy bills. This is the way to incentivize and support clean energy adoption.

Thank you,
Jamie Hansen
Fairbanks, AK

From: Dave Lyon/Louise Seguela <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2022 5:59 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: H.B. 170

Dear Co-Chairs Foster and Merrick, and Members of the Committee,

I'm writing to urge your support for HB 170, the creation of a "green bank" housed with the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority. Now is the time to kick our investment in energy efficient homes and businesses into high gear, and work on encouraging loans and financing for green energy projects statewide. Alaska can lead the nation in this direction.

I also support amending the bill with the following language:
"develop loan programs for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects for residential, commercial and community buildings."

Thank you for your hard work,
Louise Seguela
Homer AK

Alaskan Green Bank Letter to Our Legislators

for transparent and accountable investments in Alaska's Future

Dear Alaskan Legislators,

We, the undersigned, oppose [SB 123](#) & [HB 170](#) "The Energy Independence Program & Fund: AIDEA" because Alaskans deserve better. While a Green Bank could be a great step toward Alaska's clean energy future, housing the Green Bank at the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) would be a mistake. Please take the time to do this right.

SB 123 and HB 170 would create an Alaskan Green Bank housed at AIDEA. A Green Bank is a publicly capitalized entity established specifically to facilitate private investment into domestic low carbon, climate resilient infrastructure. An Alaskan Green Bank could be a powerful economic engine to diversify Alaska's economy.

Unfortunately, AIDEA's long-standing track record of misallocated and often secretive investments means an AIDEA-managed Green Bank would be burdened by public distrust. AIDEA has a [history of unethical and economically disastrous projects](#) that have been pursued directly against the will of the affected communities, including the [West Susitna Access Road](#), the [Ambler Road](#), an [Ore Terminal](#) in Southeast, and [oil leases](#) in the [Arctic Refuge](#). AIDEA's track record of shoddy public process includes blatant disregard and disrespect for the Alaskan public. For example, AIDEA gave only 3 days' notice for its March 27, 2020, board meeting, during which Board Chair Dana Pruhs abruptly ended public testimony of people opposing the Ambler Road by saying, "I don't give a sh*t." The AIDEA board went on to approve \$35 million for the Ambler Road and deny [\\$2.5 million for Alaska's blood bank](#).

There is growing public outcry against AIDEA's rogue actions, as evidenced by [HB 271](#), a bill that would increase legislative oversight of AIDEA, set a minimum 50 percent dividend to the state, and increase community engagement. The reforms set out in HB 271 would be a good start, but they would still leave a long way to go to making AIDEA the forward-thinking, publicly accountable institution we need to launch Alaska's Green Bank.

Given the significant and warranted public distrust of AIDEA, housing the Green Bank there as it is would be a mistake. As written, HB 170 and SB 123 provide open-ended and unclear authority to AIDEA. If AIDEA is to house the Green Bank, the bills should be amended to remove loopholes that could undermine the purpose of the program and to ensure appropriate oversight and parameters for AIDEA. A legitimate Green Bank bill would include the following requirements:

- 1) Any capitalization of the fund should be expressly **subject to the Executive Budget Act and legislative approval**, as required by the Alaska Constitution;
- 2) **Large expenditures** (for example over \$5 million) **must be subject to timely legislative oversight**;
- 3) The **primary purpose of any project funded must be to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental impacts, and/or increase energy efficiency**;

- 4) The bill must **ensure transparent public process for AIDEA's funding decisions**, including a minimum of 30 days' notice for public comment on resolutions and a written record of responses to comments;
- 5) The bill must incorporate **free, prior, and informed consent** from affected tribes;
- 6) **Decision makers must be composed of state and tribal experts** with backgrounds in, among other things, **traditional ecological knowledge, clean energy and green economies**; and
- 7) At least **35 percent of lending must be allocated to rural Alaskans**.

We wholeheartedly support the concept of creating a Green Bank for Alaska and express our gratitude to Governor Dunleavy and the organizations and legislators who have started the conversation. But because AIDEA is not in a position to properly steward Alaska's Green Bank, and this bill does not contain appropriate checks on AIDEA, we oppose SB 123 and HB 170. We look forward to working with you to design the Green Bank Alaska deserves.

Sincerely,

Organizational Signatories:

Native Movement
Northern Alaska Environmental Center
Southeast Alaska Conservation Council
Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition
Sierra Club Alaska
Kachemak Bay Conservation Society
350Juneau

Individual Signatories:

Jessica Girard, Executive Director, Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition
Ruth Miller, Climate Justice Director, Native Movement
Margi Dashevsky, Regenerative Economies Director, Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition
Matthew Jackson, Climate Program Manager, SEACC
Elisabeth Mering, Homer, AK
Arleigh Hitchcock, KING! Organizer, Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition
Nauri Toler, Environmental Justice Organizer, Native Movement
Tara Chrisman, Communications Coordinator, Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition
Katie McClellan
Mary C Burtness
Andrea Feniger, Executive Director, Sierra Club Alaska
Zach Brown, Co-Executive Director, Tidelines Institute

Lisa Baraff, Program Director, Northern Alaska Environmental Center

Mike Tobin, Board Member, 350 Juneau

Doug Woodby, co-chair, 350 Juneau

Malinda Chase

Margaret Yellow Wolf Tarrant, Environmental Justice Organizer, Alaska Community Action on Toxics

From: Elena P [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2022 12:10 PM
To: House Finance; Rep. DeLena Johnson
Subject: HB 170

Co-Chairs Foster and Merrick, and Members of the Committee,

I would like to express my support for this legislation and establishing a green bank in Alaska. I understand the Renewable Energy Alaska Project (REAP) is working to insert the following into the bill: to “develop loan programs for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects for residential, commercial and community buildings.” I support this additional language. I think such legislation and a green bank would create a much needed aspect of economic diversity for Alaska. Also, I had participated in the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation's weatherization project and it was absolutely invaluable to saving energy costs and raising the value of my house. Since it is no longer viable, this legislation would be a good alternative. Thank you for reading.

Elena Prisekin
Palmer, AK

From: Lucy Peckham [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, April 23, 2022 3:17 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB 170

Co-Chairs Foster and Merrick, and Members of the Committee,

I'm a resident of Anchorage, and a so-called super voter in District 25. I am writing to express my delight that you are giving HB 170 a hearing in your committee, and to offer my full support of moving the bill out of committee to receive consideration and hopefully passage from the House as a whole.

I also support the amendment language that Renewable Energy Project Alaska (REAP) is offering: to **“develop loan programs for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects for residential, commercial and community buildings.”**

A new “green bank” housed under the auspices of the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) would allow home and business owners to borrow funds with affordable terms to make energy efficiency improvements, enabling those borrowers to pay the loans back with the money they save on their energy bills.

I can't see any downside to this bill, only the good it could do to Alaskans burdened with the increasing cost of energy. Making it available to business owners as well as home owners is incredibly smart! Please consider voting for this beneficial bill!

Sincerely,
Lucy Peckham
8 [REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Lorene Lynn [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2022 3:18 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB 170

To the House Finance Committee Members,

I am writing in support of HB 170, especially to include amendment language that makes it clear that the priority for the "green bank" is to "develop loan programs for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects for residential, commercial, and community buildings."

On the precipice of dramatic changes in our climate, this legislation is one step in the right direction to reduce our dependence on non-renewable energy sources. A green bank would help reduce energy waste, estimated to be over \$1 billion in Alaska alone.

The success of the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation's weatherization program is well documented, but the state grant funds have run out. A green bank would allow continuation of these types of energy efficiency improvements, but in a loan program. This would benefit the state, homeowners, and business owners.

Regards,
Lorene

Lorene Lynn
Restoration Ecologist / Soil Scientist
Red Mountain Consulting LLC
[REDACTED]

From: Rika Mouw [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2022 12:01 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB 170

Dear members of the House Finance committee,

I love the idea of Alaska maintaining a green bank account!

Ultimately, green banks aim to fight climate change. We have a short window to accomplish the clean energy transition if we are to avoid the worst impacts. The accelerated adoption of clean energy facilitated by a green bank is a powerful and cost-effective part of a full climate policy platform.

However, I am very much opposed to this concept being under the wing of AIDEA. The lack of AIDEA'S transparency, lack of public input and many of the glaring past projects it has been involved in make a very bad partnership.

I feel green banking should be an open and stand alone endeavor.

Please do NOT consider folding a green bank idea within AIDEA. That would be a mistake we cannot afford as a green bank's mission is not compatible with what AIDEA has done in the past and continues to do.

Thank you for listening considering my deep concerns on this subject.

Rika Mouw

Homer

From: Mariko Shirazi <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2022 5:39 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB 170

Co-Chairs Foster and Merrick, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to encourage you to support HB 170 to establish a green bank housed at the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority. The green bank would open opportunities for Alaskans who otherwise could not afford the improvements, to lower their energy bills for years to come. It is good for Alaska.

Thank you,

Mariko Shirazi
[REDACTED]

From: Brendan Bonnett <b[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2022 5:08 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB 170

Dear Co chairs Foster and Merrick, and members of the committee,

I support HB 170, the establishment of the Alaska green bank, and specifically the amendment language prioritizing energy efficiency and renewable energy loans for Alaska homes, community, and commercial buildings.

Please help advance modernization and energy independence.

Regards,

Brendan Bonnett