



International Union of Operating Engineers LOCAL 302 • Washington and Alaska • AFL-CIO

Daren Konopaski, *Business Manager and General Vice President*
Corey Baxter, *District 8 Representative*

January 29, 2016

Representative Cathy Munoz
State Capitol Room 501
Juneau AK, 99801

RE: HB 143 AIDEA Loan Authorizations

Dear Representative Munoz,

The International Union of Operating Engineers Local 302 would like to make the following comments supporting the Sweetheart Lake Hydroelectric project which will bring economic development activities that will impact and benefit Juneau and Southeast Alaska once it gets the authorization provided under HB 143.

1. This project will create direct and indirect family wage jobs for the Juneau economy and the Juneau work force which is crucial to help sustain our local economy and provide an economic stimulus for the Juneau Construction trades.
2. The project will create opportunity for business growth and clean industry attraction to the Capital city for industries that desire and use large amounts of renewable generated electricity.
3. This project would provide hydropower electricity to local mines displacing expensive electricity generated from fossil fuel sources. The cost savings could extend the mine's life of operations and help preserve Juneau's private employment in this industry sector.
4. The Sweetheart Lake Hydropower EIS identifies the new recreational infrastructure improvements and identifies the Juneau Hydropower collaboration with the Douglas Island Pink and Chum hatchery (DIPAC) to improve personal use and recreational fishing opportunities for our community.

The Operating Engineers Local 302 believes that it is in the best interest of the State of Alaska to approve HB 143 and look forward to the economic benefits that this project will bring.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Corey Baxter
District 8 Representative
International Union of Operating Engineers Local 302