

From: [Martha Raynolds](#)
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: Alaska Green Bank
Date: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 10:10:35 AM

Dear House Labor & Commerce Committee,

I am writing to support the creation of an Alaska Green Bank. The Green Bank would provide resources for alternative energy projects and reducing Alaska's carbon footprint in economically (as well as environmentally) beneficial ways. It could finance improvements in housing, transportation and other infrastructure that will save our State money as well as reducing greenhouse gas emissions. And it will be able to accept Federal funds for these purposes.

However, there are problems with setting the Green Bank up under AIDEA. They have a poor track record when it comes to public access and accountability. If this money is set up as a fund within AIDEA, I strongly support requirements such as Legislative involvement for appointing commissioners, increased transparency, and a requirement that Green Bank expenditures reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Sincerely,

-- Martha Raynolds

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Martha Raynolds

[REDACTED]

From: [Megan Holland](#)
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: FW: House bill 170
Date: Monday, April 26, 2021 11:56:09 AM

From: Larri Spengler [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2021 11:26 AM
To: Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zack Fields <Rep.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov>
Cc: Sen. Jesse Kiehl <Sen.Jesse.Kiehl@akleg.gov>; Rep. Sara Hannan <Rep.Sara.Hannan@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andi Story <Rep.Andi.Story@akleg.gov>
Subject: House bill 170

Greetings:

I strongly support HB 170, legislation which would further creative financing options within the [Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority](#).

The timing of this much-needed legislation tis excellent, as it comes at when the federal government is considering creating a national \$100 billion “green bank” with the same focus as this bill.

I urge its passage.

Larri Spengler

Larri Irene Spengler
[REDACTED]

From: [Margi Dashevsky](#)
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: Strengthening HB 170
Date: Monday, April 26, 2021 5:36:05 PM
Attachments: [Funding the future of Alaska's energy independence Community Perspectives newsminer.com.pdf](#)

Dear Members of the House Labor and Commerce Committee,

I'm writing to express my enthusiastic support for HB 170 and encourage you to further amend the bill to strengthen its ability to meet its stated intents by ensuring greater checks and balances for AIDEA and clarifying that the primary purpose of funding be to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Thank you to the legislators who have already incorporated public input to strengthen this bill in the Alaska House Energy Committee.

I'm including below my opinion editorial that was published this morning.

Sincerely,
Margi Dashevsky

Funding the Future of Alaskan Energy Independence

http://www.newsminer.com/opinion/community_perspectives/funding-the-future-of-alaskas-energy-independence/article_57c6de9c-a64b-11eb-ad6f-4389b6e3f3be.html

Alaskans are no stranger to the dangers of falling oil revenue or the increasing impacts of climate change, which are projected to cost the state [\\$5.5B](#). Now is the time to proactively launch Alaska's energy future which is precisely what Governor Dunleavy seeks to do through an [Energy Independence Program & Fund](#) that would provide low interest financing for energy efficiency projects and renewable power generation.

Sustainable Alaskan energy independence is a goal everyone I know can get behind. Commonly considered range of approaches include [reconfiguring the energy grid](#), [energy efficiency](#) upgrades like [heat pumps](#), and supporting distributed [wind](#), [solar](#), and [micro-hydro](#) generation are examples of the many projects that are poised to multiply across Alaska. Some of the less talked about, and most promising, approaches this fund could catalyze aren't even on the table yet. For example, innovative finance mechanisms like the Climate Response Fund that [Nikoosh Carlo](#) has proposed that creates a "[collaborative governance](#) structure to finance innovative, equitable, community-led climate mitigation and adaptation projects." The Governor's proposal provides a key opportunity for Alaskans to build a resilient economy and invest in the future our state needs, but it needs to reflect important input from community experts and the legislature.

Establishing Alaska's Green Bank positions Alaska to leverage our \$130 million share of

the [\\$100B](#) of federal funds proposed in a bipartisan bill that Don Young is co-sponsoring, in turn are projected to leverage [\\$500B](#) from the private sector and create 4 million jobs over the next four years. That's 5,000 new jobs for Alaskans who can put that money to work perhaps better than any other place, due to our [high energy costs](#), especially in rural Alaska.

The proposed energy fund would ensure that everyday Alaskans can afford to invest in themselves by providing the upfront capital for projects that can ultimately pay for themselves. If done well, the proposed program would make Alaska a driver of clean energy innovation instead of getting left behind by the energy transition. The US installed more [wind turbine capacity](#) in 2020 than in any other year and while the Biden administration re-enters the US into the Paris Climate Accord, Texas and Florida have installed [small scale solar](#) in massive quantities. There's a rapidly closing window of opportunity to get ahead of the curve and realize the increasing profits from renewables and energy efficiency before large banks and wall street dominate. Alaska once leveraged other states' energy economies to ramp up our oil production. It's time to shift our sights to renewables now that Alaska has fallen from a leading oil economy to [producing less oil than Oklahoma or Colorado](#). The affordable financing proposed would provide a vital investment in Alaska's energy security and prosperity.

The proposed Energy Independence Program & Fund can be a powerful economic engine to diversify Alaska's economy and advance sustainable energy development. Housing the fund at AIDEA (the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority) makes sense on the one hand, because they are set up to provide this type of financing already, but is dubious given their shady track record of unsound deals and broad public distrust. Many of us are concerned the legislation will fail to meet the stated intents as it's currently written; updating outdated statutes is key. In order to succeed, the primary purpose of any project funded must be to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and/or increase energy efficiency. Structural elements to ensure equity, like allocating 35% of lending to rural Alaskans and providing technical assistance to support community access, are vital. The fund must be accountable to a transparent public process and state and tribal experts must inform decision-making throughout. Finally, expenditures from this fund that exceed certain thresholds should be subject to legislative oversight.

Margi Dashevsky is lifelong Alaskan and the Regenerative Economies Coordinator for the Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition

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Margi Dashevsky (she/her)
Regenerative Economies Coordinator
Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition

www.fairbanksclimateaction.org

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We recognize that we work throughout the unceded territories of the Indigenous Peoples of Alaska; that our office is located on the traditional territories of the lower Tanana Dene Athabascan Peoples and that I live and work on Dena'ina lands. We acknowledge the ancestral & present land stewardship and place-based knowledge of the peoples of these territories. We strive to carry out our work based in a commitment to the [Jemez Principles](#).