

From: [Nicholas Parlato](#)
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: Comments for HLCC Meeting 4/30
Date: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 10:58:10 AM

Dear HLCC,

Please find below comments regarding the future of AIDEA and the proposal to form a Green Bank for transitioning Alaska's economy.

As we should all understand, the economy is not just a free market but a space for innovation and out-of-the-box thinking, processes often spurred on by government efforts. The state of Alaska has extensive powers through AIDEA to diversify the state's economy through well-considered and solution-oriented investments. Unfortunately, AIDEA has proven to be an engine not for broad-based economic development but the enrichment of select industries at the expense of community and environmental well-being. Their investment in and support for drilling in the Arctic Refuge represents exactly the kind of narrow vision that has landed the state in its present financial crisis. Should the state choose to prioritize holistic and democratic approaches to adapting the economy for climate change and its complex fallout, Alaska would emerge as a leader not just in the US but globally.

In light of this, I wish to make plain that AIDEA must be subject to legislative oversight and its decision-making should be known to the public through robust transparency measures. AIDEA should furthermore eliminate fossil fuel projects from its portfolio as it is clear that the oil and natural gas industry offers only diminishing returns from here on out. To the extent possible, public opinion should be solicited on major investments by AIDEA and communities facing stark income, health, and food security disparities should be prioritized in its allocations. Hence, AIDEA would ideally be transformed into a Green Bank to stimulate entrepreneurship and community resilience across the state.

Thank you very much.

Nicholas

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Nicholas J. Parlato
PhD Student, Arctic and Northern Studies
Research Assistant, [CAPS](#)
University of Alaska Fairbanks

UAF's Troth Yeddha' Campus is located on the traditional lands of the Dena people of the lower Tanana River.



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From: [Bee Long](#)
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: HB170, support amendment 5
Date: Thursday, April 29, 2021 11:09:33 AM

Dear House Labor and Commerce Committee,

I would be more inclined to support this bill if AIDEA was not the gatekeeper of the whole process.

I SUPPORT AMENDMENT 5 WHICH WOULD
RESTRUCTURE THE AIDEA BOARD IN ORDER TO GIVE THE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE
THAT AIDEA WOULD IMPLEMENT LEGISLATIVE INTENT. This confidence would
come because there would be more PUBLIC OVERSIGHT.

Becky Long
Talkeetna