
From: koshamagosh@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Kevin Tritt
<koshamagosh@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 28, 2024 12:00 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: Remove AIDEA Funding Provision

Dear Alaska House Finance Committee,

I urge you to remove an ill-advised provision in HB 122 so that it does not prevent the rest of the bill from passing. The provision gives the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) the ability to, without legislative oversight, issue \$300 million in bonds for anything related to infrastructure and construction costs “that support the development of critical mineral and rare earth element projects located in the state.”

Essentially, this bill would multiply by a factor of 12 the bonding authority this troubled public corporation can risk on anything it purports to be related to “critical minerals.” This is especially troubling given that it comes on the heels of two respected Alaska economists’ deep dive into AIDEA’s finances, history, and efforts to exempt itself from both legislative oversight and laws protecting the public

In previous hearings surrounding the bill, the proposed West Susitna Industrial Access Road was mentioned as a possible use of this authority. Current mining exploration at the end of the proposed West Su Industrial Access Road points to gold and copper as the minerals to be extracted. Neither are designated “critical minerals.”

Please remove the provision giving AIDEA an expanded exemption from legislative oversight and expanded ability to waste state funds. This removal would allow HB 122 to proceed without problems. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Kevin Tritt
Anchorage, AK 99508-4448


From: Bee Long [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, April 27, 2024 3:40 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB 122 AIDEA Amendment

HB 122 Section 3: Legislative Approval Statewide Critical Mineral & Rare Earth Element Infrastructure Amendment (To be AIDEA-Owned Infrastructure)

Public Comment to the House Finance Committee

4/28/24

Dear House Finance Committee Members:

The legislature needs to create a two year legislative special committee on AIDEA Operations and then make good public policy recommended changes to statutes governing AIDEA. Please do this instead of this \$300 million bonding authority amendment which gives a blank check to the agency. What good as AIDEA actually done for the state budget?

The recent revelations about AIDEA's public policy transgressions from well-respected economists, NGOs, members of the public, and major media coverage is a pretty obvious alert that AIDEA's bonding authority should NOT be increased to \$300 million.

- There are no documents such as reports or briefings for this HB 122 amendment as to AIDEA specific intentions. We hear from the House Transportation Committee hearing, that Nova Minerals speculates that there is antimony in their explorations. Is that the main reason?
- This bonding authority comes with no caveats, no oversight, not structured as to the number of bonds and no time limits. This is an open ended permission which amounts to a blank check. It is too broad.
- AIDEA has exaggerated its job creation numbers.
- AIDEA has a lack of transparency regarding the proposed West Susitna Mining Road permitting making the project seem like it is further along than it is.
- AIDEA's investments have been poorly chosen. Much based on speculation.
- AIDEA's loan practices are unnecessary, wasteful, and expensive. The private banking and financial sector of the US can do what they do just nicely.
- The amendment lacks definitions as to critical minerals and rare earth infrastructure. Another reason why the amendment is too broad.

Please consider not including this amendment. It is poor public policy.

Becky Long
Talkeetna

From: Kendra Zamzow [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2024 9:26 AM
To: House Finance
Subject: HB122

Dear House Finance Committee members:

HB122 and its Senate bill companion SB105 appropriately provide means for AIDEA to bond for port improvements at the Seward port. Unfortunately, a very inappropriate amendment was tacked on to HB122. This amendment would authorize AIDEA to bond for up to \$300 million for infrastructure related to critical minerals. It provides very broad authorization, with no legislative oversight.

The companion bill SB 105 does not have the AIDEA bonding amendment.

If AIDEA wants authority to bond, especially for very large amounts of money such as this, they should go through a more traditional and transparent public process -- proposing the spending as a stand-alone bill.

Please do not vote for this amendment. Removing the amendment is best for public process and for the sake of quickly moving forward the original intent of funding renovations at the Seward port facility.

Kendra Zamzow

[REDACTED]
Chickaloon, AK 99674
[REDACTED]



Ts'itohna' nene' ghestnaa eł izdaa
"I live and work on Matanuska River land"

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

From: Bee Long [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2024 4:11 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: No to AIDEA HB 122 Bonding Amendment

Via: House.Finance@akleg.gov

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee:

ELIMINATE THE HB 122 AMENDMENT WHICH IS THE \$300 MILLION BOND ISSUE GIVEAWAY ABILITY WITHOUT LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY TO THE ALASKA INDUSTRIAL EXPORT AUTHORITY, AIDEA.

This surprise amendment to the House Transportation Committee in March was ardently supported by Representative McCabe supposedly because Nova Minerals, of the West Susitna Access proposal fame, supposedly, and I mean SUPPOSEDLY, found antimony metal. How convenient.

AIDEA's lack of transparency in their actions is famous throughout the state. For instance, AIDEA is promoting the idea that their 404 wetlands permitting process is moving right along. Blatantly untrue. According to the 404-permitting agency, the US Army Corps of Engineers, their 404 permit not only has NOT been approved. But due to their inability to provide information to the Corp, their application was WITHDRAWN on 1/11/23 and is NOT being processed.

The 404 permitting process is a big deal for public policy. This proposed route will cross at least 182 streams and innumerable wetlands with innumerable acres of dredge and fill gravel needed for an industrial mining road.

Generally, AIDEA is guilty of gross negligence with a horrible return on their investments. Their job creation data is totally inaccurate. The legislature must pull together to require legislative oversight AS A MATTER FOR CONSTITUTIONAL PUBLIC POLICY. Do not let AIDEA dodge legislative oversight.

I totally support the group Trustees for Alaska complaint filed with the Ombudsman's office about AIDEA bypassing the public on capital projects and improper spending. And specifically, improper expenditure for the West Susitna Access proposal has occurred the last 3 years or so. Legislative investigation must happen.

Please do not vote for this amendment.

Becky Long, Talkeetna
4/13/24

From: Heather MacFarlane <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2024 5:41 PM
To: House Transportation; House Finance
Subject: AIDEA spending amendment to HB 122

Hello,

I am writing to express my strong disapproval of AIDEA's request for a \$300 million borrowing capacity increase. AIDEA has a long track record of poorly-planned developmental investments which never come to fruition and cost the state money we do not have to spare. There is no evidence this next spending request would be any different, as they have not furnished the legislature with any specifics of their plans. Furthermore, the way in which this amendment was introduced--furtively, and with no briefings or reports for committee members--is unacceptable. Lawmakers need to be offered full information before making a vote. It makes no sense for AIDEA's borrowing capacity to be wrapped up in a separate organization's requests for a concrete, specified project (the Seward cruise ship port).

AIDEA is a state corporation beholden to its shareholders: Alaska residents. Giving AIDEA a blank check for unaccounted-for borrowing is not serving the people of Alaska, it's serving private companies with no incentive to truly improve the lives of Alaskans.

Thank you for your time,
Heather MacFarlane
Fairbanks

From: Bob Harr [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, March 31, 2024 12:00 PM
To: House.Arctic.Policy.Economic.Dev.And.Tourism@akleg.gov
Cc: House Transportation; House Finance; Rep. Ben Carpenter; Rep. Sarah Vance
Subject: Mine funding and road construction

Hi All,

Regarding HB 122 I am in somewhat support of it. I have over 2,000 acres in the 40 mile mining District near the Yukon and Alaska Border. I acquired the mine in 2015 and in 2017 we discovered Rare Earth Elements and have been developing this discovery since. I have a PHD in Mining Engineering with Geo Science. We have been diligently working with the DOE, USGS, DOD, UAF, CORE-CM, National Labs, Alaska Science Center, DNR, Army Corp DGGS and others on our project. Our ground has been chemically tested by ALS with COA Certificates. We have developed a National Instrument 43-101. We are way ahead of many other potential startups. I factually have developed Separation and Refining technology with patents.

Due to the significance of our discovery we are keeping this somewhat under the wire. On August 23rd, 2023 USGS asked to sample our ground. We have signed a TAA agreement with USGS and have been asked to be the Poster Child for the mission to replenish the depleted Military Feed Stock. We are fully permitted, have a great relationship with all agencies. We have been advised by agencies that we have the 9th largest Mineral find in the USA. We have 14 of the Critical Metals and 40 minerals.

We do have 5 current suppliers who want our elements and alloys. We just signed paperwork with Salvex for distribution Worldwide. We are still in the process of startup mode and have been funding the project ourselves because Banks do not finance Mining. However for just 6,600 pounds for HIP (an Alloy affiliate) that would net \$13,678,000.00 per month. There is in fact a 45 million ton reserve currently known on our ground with more to come on the core drilling program. My current washed ore pile ready for processing is worth over \$6.1 billion @ 1million 82 thousand tons on the ground right now. But we cant get Bank Financing.

While doing some HDD River Crossing drilling for Lower Valley Energy in Jackson Wyoming, We had some meetings with some Metal and Mineral leaders at Teton Village. My friend Mark Bristow (CEO of Barrick Gold) flew in from South Africa. to visit with me and has a condo there. Barrick Gold is a NOVA / Donlin partner. Just so you know there is no intent to further the NOVA mine until the price of gold gets over \$3,000.00 an ounce. There is no road and the Cook Inlet is running out of gas for processing. The grams per ton are just not profitable. Plus Alaska is upside down on how it handles its business. However, Barrick will take all of the Copper, Gold or Silver I can produce. Barrick has no interest in the Rare Earth Play like I do!!

Did you all know that Alaska is NOT listed for the 6 States who have a vast Gold Deposits. Most States are very proactive in providing assistance for mining but not Alaska. Our vast Mineral Resources are untouched. Without Federal Aid, Alaska can't survive because of dependency. Why are we not ridding ourselves from the dependency when we are massively mineral rich?

Financing must go towards proven projects and not speculation or proposed. Where is the Alaska Gas line Development Corp at today with all of the millions spent and for what?

Golden Vista Mining and Exploration LLC is for real, with clients, separation and refining capabilities being developed. But no funding to assist on reducing dependency from the Fed and unfriendly countries like China and Russia. Did you know that most of the alloys came from China, Russia and Ukraine ? The DOD has schooled me up to where we all should become extremely concerned.

I need road improvements on the EXISTING Taylor Highway and Top of the World Highway which goes to our mine. Border Security is also a concern into and from Canada year round. Those Highways are closed with no maintenance after October 15th of every year.

I would ask that the House and Senate take a hard look at taking care of what exist, realistic, and profitable now to fund for the Berst Interest of Our State.

Thank you,
Bob Harr

Bob Harr

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Kasilof, Alaska
99610
[REDACTED]

Golden Vista Mining and Exploration LLC
Harr Technologies
Silver Fox Truck Division Inc
Wilson and Company Engineering

From: Ruth Iten [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2024 3:35 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: Re: Public Testimony HB 122
Attachments: HB 122 Public Testimony Iten final 2.docx

To whom it may concern:

I went outside to work in my sled dog kennel and realized I had made an error in my testimony. Sen Olson and Hoffman are in the Senate Finance Committee. How embarrassing. I did get one person to edit and they missed it too. Please use this final 2 document for my testimony. Thank you,
Ruth Iten

On Fri, Mar 22, 2024 at 12:52 PM Ruth Iten <ruthnediten@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi,
Attached is my public testimony for HB 122.

Thank you,
Ruth Iten
Northwest Alaska