
From: Susan A [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 5:00 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: Public Testimony Opposing HB 56

Public Testimony Opposing HB 56

Chairperson, Members of the Committee, and Fellow Alaskans,

I stand before you today in strong opposition to House Bill 56 in its current form. This bill represents yet another reckless use of public funds to prop up a failing, financially unviable project while neglecting the pressing needs of everyday Alaskans. It is a fiscally irresponsible measure that lacks accountability, transparency, and legal safeguards to protect our state from corruption, corporate profiteering, and environmental destruction.

1. Corporate Giveaway at Public Expense

HB 56 allocates \$50 million from the state's general fund to the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) for the reimbursement of front-end engineering and design (FEED) expenditures for the Alaska LNG project. This is nothing more than a bailout for corporate interests using taxpayer money.

Where is the return on investment for Alaskans?

Where are the profit-sharing provisions to ensure that any financial gains benefit the public, not just private LNG investors?

Why should taxpayers foot the bill for a project that continues to flounder in the face of economic and environmental concerns?

The people of Alaska should not be forced to subsidize corporate windfalls while our public services—education, healthcare, and infrastructure—remain chronically underfunded.

2. Lack of Oversight and Transparency

This bill hands over millions of dollars to AIDEA without requiring public accountability. There is no clear spending plan, no audit requirements, and no penalties for mismanagement.

AIDEA has a history of controversial, high-risk investments with little oversight.

HB 56 fails to include any safeguards ensuring these funds will be spent responsibly.

It does not require detailed public reporting on how the money is used.

Without strict financial controls and public oversight, this bill opens the door to waste, fraud, and abuse. We have seen time and again how unchecked government spending leads to corporate enrichment at the public's expense.

3. Violates Constitutional and Legal Standards

This bill fails to meet constitutional and legal standards for responsible governance.

Violates the Public Purpose Doctrine (Alaska Constitution, Article IX, § 6): The LNG project has repeatedly failed to demonstrate clear economic benefits to Alaskans. State funds cannot legally be used to enrich private interests without clear, direct public benefits.

Oversteps Legislative Authority: AIDEA is a public corporation that operates with autonomy. This bill blurs the separation of powers by using taxpayer money to fund an entity that is not directly accountable to the legislature or the people.

Retroactive Funding Raises Legal Issues: The retroactivity clause (Sec. 4) is legally dubious. If the bill becomes law after June 30, 2025, it would retroactively apply funding without proper legislative review, violating basic principles of fiscal responsibility.

4. Environmental and Indigenous Rights Violations

The Alaska LNG project threatens our land, water, and the livelihoods of Indigenous communities. Yet, HB 56 ignores environmental safeguards, bypasses tribal consultation, and fails to comply with federal protections under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA).

No environmental impact assessments are required before funds are spent.

No guarantees that the project will meet climate and air quality standards.

No protections for subsistence rights of Alaska Native communities, despite the project's direct threat to traditional lands and ways of life.

HB 56 recklessly advances corporate-driven industrial expansion at the expense of our health, our environment, and our Indigenous communities.

5. Priorities Are Wrong – Alaskans Need Real Solutions, Not More LNG Hype

Instead of throwing more public money at a failing LNG project, Alaska should be investing in real solutions that create long-term, sustainable economic growth. We need:

Infrastructure and housing development to address the state's growing affordability crisis.

Food security programs that strengthen local agriculture and fisheries.

Renewable energy investments that harness Alaska's hydro, wind, solar, and geothermal potential—instead of clinging to a dying fossil fuel industry.

Job creation programs that empower Alaskans rather than funneling money to out-of-state corporations.

HB 56 wastes public funds on an outdated industry while ignoring the urgent needs of everyday Alaskans.

Final Demand: REJECT HB 56

This bill is not legally sound, not financially responsible, and not in the best interest of Alaskans. Moving forward without significant corrections is an abuse of legislative power that prioritizes special interests over the public good.

I urge this committee to reject HB 56 outright. If this bill moves forward, it must include major reforms to ensure accountability, transparency, environmental protections, and public benefit. Anything less is a betrayal of the Alaskan people.

Thank you for your time. I strongly urge you to vote NO on HB 56.

Susan Allmeroth

Two Rivers

Myself