



## PRESS RELEASE

AIDEA Office of Communications & External Affairs  
907.771.3000  
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### **AIDEA Board Holds Meeting in Ketchikan, Meets with Senator Sullivan, National and Local Leaders on Shipyard Growth Opportunities**

**Ketchikan, Alaska** — On April 10, 2026, the Board of Directors of the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) held its regular meeting in Ketchikan, underscoring AIDEA’s commitment to on-the-ground engagement with communities and assets that drive Alaska’s economy. In attendance were members of local governance, including Emily Edenshaw representing the Ketchikan Indian Community (KIC), as well as Tim Jagielski, Vice President and Co-Founder of JAG Marine Group. Jagielski commended Randy Ruaro and AIDEA for the work they have enabled at the Ketchikan Shipyard, including a 300% increase in jobs and efforts to maximize the shipyard’s workload.

While in Ketchikan, AIDEA leadership and board members met with U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan and U.S. Maritime Administrator Stephen Carmel to discuss the Ketchikan Shipyard—an AIDEA-owned asset operated by JAG Alaska Inc. (JAG Ketchikan)—and upcoming opportunities for expansion, increased capacity, and continued growth in Southeast Alaska’s maritime sector.

“Over the weekend, I welcomed U.S. Maritime Administrator Stephen Carmel to Ketchikan to discuss the growing opportunity for expanded shipbuilding and ship maintenance activity in our state. This opportunity is being driven by the continued build-out of Coast Guard and NOAA vessels in the region that we’ve delivered over the past 10 years, as well as planned federal and state investments to strengthen Alaska’s maritime industrial base. I also brought the Administrator to AIDEA’s board meeting to hear about the potential for AIDEA, working with JAG, to further expand the Ketchikan Shipyard and support long-term growth in Alaska’s maritime sector in Southeast. I’m grateful to AIDEA for their work, in partnership with our maritime sector, on building a stronger maritime economy that create good-paying jobs for Alaska families.” **Senator Sullivan said.**

“I want to thank Executive Director Randy Ruaro, the AIDEA Board and staff, and JAG for the dedication and hard work that has helped position the Ketchikan Shipyard for continued positive growth. Together with our federal, state, local, and industry partners, we remain focused on responsible stewardship of this critical asset and on advancing opportunities that create jobs, strengthen Alaska’s maritime industrial base, and build

long-term economic resilience for Ketchikan and the region,” said **AIDEA Board Chairman Bill Kendig**.

Following the meeting, the group toured the Ketchikan Shipyard to review current operations and discuss how investments in infrastructure, workforce development, and project readiness can position the shipyard to serve more commercial and government work in the years ahead.

The Ketchikan Shipyard is one of Southeast Alaska’s most important industrial facilities, supporting vessel maintenance and repair for the Alaska Marine Highway System, commercial fleets, and federal customers. Work booked into 2026 and 2027 highlights growing demand for the shipyard’s skilled trades and unique capabilities.

AIDEA will continue working with federal, state, local, and industry partners to support responsible stewardship of the shipyard and advance opportunities that create jobs, strengthen Alaska’s maritime industrial base, and build long-term economic resilience for Ketchikan and the region.

### **About AIDEA**

The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority is a public corporation of the State of Alaska. AIDEA’s mission is to promote, develop, and advance the general prosperity and economic welfare of the people of Alaska. AIDEA’s continued partnership with the shipyard reflects its mission to promote sustainable development and long-term opportunities for Alaskans.

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Senator Sullivan attends AIDEA Board Meeting April 10, 2026.

Pictured left to right: AIDEA Board Member, Randy Eledge, U.S. Maritime Administrator Stephen Carmel, US Senator Dan Sullivan, AIDEA Board Chairman, Bill Kendig, AIDEA Board Member Albert Fogle, Ketchikan Indian Community Tribal Administrator/CEO Emily Edenshaw, AIDEA Board Member, Al Haynes, and AIDEA Executive Director, Randy Ruaro.



Senator Sullivan attends AIDEA Board Meeting April 10, 2026.



AIDEA Board Members and Staff tour the Ketchikan Shipyard April 10, 2026.



AIDEA Executive Director, Randy Ruaro tours the Ketchikan Shipyard with AIDEA Board and staff April 10, 2026.



AIDEA staff tour the Ketchikan Shipyard with JAG Marine Group E.V.P of Operations, Tim Jagielski April 10, 2026.