

Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, December 23, 2020
Anchorage, Alaska
Via Teleconference

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Pruhs called the meeting of the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority to order on December 23, 2020, at 3:36 pm. A full quorum was established.

2. ROLL CALL: BOARD MEMBERS

Members present: Chair Dana Pruhs (Public Member); Vice-Chair Bernie Karl (Public Member); Julie Anderson (Commissioner, DCCED); Albert Fogle (Public Member); Bill Kendig (Public Member); Anna MacKinnon (SOA-DOR); and Julie Sande (Public Member).

3. ROLL CALL STAFF, PUBLIC

No roll call of staff and public taken.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Fogle to approve the agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Mr. Kendig.

The motion to approve the agenda passed without objection.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Alan Weitzner, Executive Director AIDEA, introduced Governor Frank Murkowski to comment on issues the Board will be reviewing today. Governor Murkowski extended Merry Christmas wishes to all participants. He expressed appreciation for the invitation to comment and noted he would be happy to respond to questions after his comments. Governor Murkowski stated that Congress passed the Federal Lease Sale in ANWR in 1995. Under President Trump's support, Congress was able to pass the authorization. This is an opportunity that has not been available for a long time. Governor Murkowski understands there are approximately 22 proposed leases at the request of expertise within the industry.

Governor Murkowski explained that the State has a long history of dealing with leases, beginning in the late 1970s. This resulted in a very successful lease sale industry and revenue stream for the State. Governor Murkowski discussed the opportunity before us has a short timeframe. He gathers there is some hesitancy from the State to get involved because AIDEA does not feel comfortable with perhaps bidding on federal leases. Governor Murkowski reminded AIDEA that the State has a successful history with the lease process and there are many lease sale experts available for consultation.

Governor Murkowski discussed why this action is good for AIDEA, rather than the majors (major oil companies). He explained that the State's ego suffered a little bit when BP exited. The Green Movement has had a significant impact on the mentality of some of the corporations as evidenced by the current environmental opposition. Governor Murkowski believes AIDEA is the logical instrument, as opposed to the private sector. He noted Exxon has seen a drop in its price valuation and he does not believe Hilcorp is ready to establish itself as a major. Governor Murkowski discussed ConocoPhillips has committed to an active program next year. He reviewed the pressure seen on the inner city banks to encourage them not to finance projects in the Arctic for environmental regions. Fortunately, the Comptroller of currency has indicated that there is no discrimination allowed in selecting what customers borrow.

Governor Murkowski believes this is a difficult time with the industry coming off low prices that are beginning to rise again. Only AIDEA can buy at a 50% discount, as a consequence of an ANILCA provision where all federal leases will share 50% with the State. Governor Murkowski suggests that AIDEA's current bid on \$20 million of leases is increased to bidding on all the leases because half of the money will be returned and then could be subleased to industry. He discussed the likelihood of a major discovery based on the encouraging USGS projections. Governor Murkowski reviewed the USGS assessment of seven billion barrels to a high of 16 billion barrels, of which the State gets 12.5% royalty, for a potential revenue stream of \$48 billion at a price of \$50 a barrel, if the leases are productive. The State would then be in a position to lease or sublease, as industry recognizes that they can initiate exploration and hopefully production in ANWR. Governor Murkowski believes these issues should be considered in AIDEA's decision-making process during this extraordinary opportunity for the future of the State's oil production and the federal government's responsible lease sale. There were no questions.

Chair Pruhs expressed appreciation to Governor Murkowski for the historical perspective on the potential leases and all of his work to promote the North Slope activity and the betterment of the State. Chair Pruhs commented he grew up in Fairbanks and has been discussing the ANWR perspective for a very long time. He noted the opportunity during President Clinton's administration that did not materialize. Chair Pruhs expects a very robust public comment section during this meeting and may contact Governor Murkowski if public questions arise. Governor Murkowski agreed. Chair Pruhs extended holiday wishes and shared an anecdotal memory of attending Christmas dinner at Governor Murkowski's home with his family.

Vice-Chair Karl echoed Chair Pruh's comments and expressed appreciation to Governor Murkowski for his continued leadership in Alaska and constantly looking after the best interest of the State, even in his retirement. Governor Murkowski wished AIDEA good luck. He believes there are tough times ahead. Every single development project in Alaska, including mining, timber, oil and gas, some tourism, is under litigation. Governor Murkowski believes Alaska has become the poster child for the causes that are generated. Alaska has not been effective in responding from the standpoint of its professional capabilities. Alaska has better resource development than anywhere in the nation. Governor Murkowski indicated some of the leases have been recently removed because of the polar bear denning. These particular leases have some exposure to polar bear denning. He noted the environmentalists will not agree to stop hunting polar bears. There is a rule that non-Natives cannot take polar bears for trophies

anymore. Governor Murkowski believes Alaska is doing a pretty good job. He expressed his frustration that the environmentalists have looked at Alaska as big business and the environmentalists are raking in tremendous amounts of support because of impressions that are made about Alaska, whether it is a sacred place or whatever, and the reality that Alaska is a big piece of real estate.

Chair Pruhs reminded the public to please limit their comments to two minutes regarding the proposed resolution. The public comments agenda item is reserved for 90 minutes, beginning at 3:55 p.m. Board members were provided copies of public comments that were written or sent in by email. Chair Pruhs expressed appreciation for the public who is patiently waiting on the line. He informed the intent is to have as many individuals testify as possible. Chair Pruhs will time each comment and give an alert when there is approximately 10 seconds remaining.

Alyssa Wilson, AIDEA, instructed those who wish to make a public comment to please press star-nine on their phone, and state their name when prompted.

Tanya (sp) Brown commented regarding the negative impacts that more fossil fuel development would have to the state, to the Gwich'in Nation, to wildlife, and to the climate crisis. Ms. Brown discussed the changes in the environment she has seen first-hand. She noted the current economic recession. Ms. Brown stated the natural environment is directly connected to climate and wildlife. The development of renewable energy would make more sense. She discussed the melting permafrost and melting polar caps are impacting polar bears and the water supply. Ms. Brown asked if money is more important than our life, health, safety, livelihood, and mother earth.

Doug Woodby (sp) advised that he submitted written comments yesterday mostly regarding the legal issues concerning this meeting, including whether or not the executive session meets the State statute and the constitutionality of the expenditures that are proposed. Mr. Woodby discussed an additional legal issue regarding AIDEA's qualification as an applicant under the federal lease delineation. Mr. Woodby expressed his concern that this action will end up as a big legal issue and the State will end up spending a bucket of money to defend itself against the inevitable lawsuits, which are likely to be highly meritorious.

Mr. Woodby expressed hope that the Board realizes that the scientific consensus is clear that we have to leave the majority of the proven reserves of fossil fuels in the ground if we are to avoid the worst of the climate impacts. He noted we are already feeling climate impacts. Mr. Woodby discussed the fossil fuel reserves in ANWR are unproven. He hopes the Board considers the future generations that we are borrowing the climate from and that we will leave them something that is sustainable.

Eliza (sp) Stattenfield (sp), Energy Analyst with Alaska Public Interest Research Group and the Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition, expressed her deep disturbance by the actions of AIDEA and the implications this conduct has on the future of the Alaska's public interest. Ms. Stattenfield commented this year has been monumental and exhausting for everyone. She noted AIDEA made this announcement last Friday, with about five days' notice, on the eve of the weekend before the darkest day of the year. The resolution was provided Monday. The context

of this meeting is after a tumultuous election for the nation, amid a global health pandemic, in which Alaska is still experiencing alarming infection rates and effects of prolonged community isolation, and within an atmosphere of shrinking public oversight, fiscal chaos, and wide-ranging and far-reaching state action without meaningful public participation.

Ms. Stattenfield discussed that the Regulatory Commission of Alaska just approved the historic Hilcorp takeover of BP's Alaskan assets without public scrutiny of their capacity to handle such an enormous stake and path. Ms. Stattenfield believes that Alaskans deserve respect and stability in these incredible times. She believes AIDEA's actions are neglectful, at best, and at worst, susceptible to nefarious interpretations with respect to transparency. There are state laws and court precedence in place to protect the public interest and AIDEA is bound by the Open Meetings Act. Executive sessions are expressly limited in that statute and nothing pertaining to the State of Alaska's interest in the Arctic Refuge lease sales or Arctic Infrastructure Development Funding qualifies for any of the listed exemptions for executive session.

Ms. Stattenfield reviewed the Open Meetings Act provides definitive guidance on the State's policy regarding public meetings. AIDEA exists to aid the conduct of the Alaska public's business, the people's business. AIDEA's actions and deliberations are supposed to be taken openly. The people of Alaska do not yield their sovereignty to the government units that serve them. The people, in delegating that authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. Alaskan people's rights to remain informed must be protected so that they retain control of their instruments that they have created. This is the quoted State policy in the Open Meetings Act. Ms. Stattenfield believes the way this resolution has been introduced and addressed is not in the public's interest. She believes more participation is necessary.

Hailey (sp) Johnston (sp) commented on Alaska's economic situation as AIDEA proposes spending \$20 million on the potential lease sale. She noted that as of last month, there were 7,000 Alaskans employed by the oil and gas industry, whereas, over half of Alaskans are employed by small businesses. Ms. Johnston expressed certainty that \$20 million could be better spent by supporting small businesses that are struggling across the state, rather than bidding on the lease sale which will effectively create a \$10 million payment to the federal government.

Robert Thompson (sp) of Kaktovik noted he lives on the border of the Arctic Refuge. He expressed opposition to a State agency meeting on these sales. Mr. Thompson questioned the legality of a State-owned business competing with private industry. He brought to AIDEA's attention that various indigenous organizations are opposed to this action, including Tanana Chiefs, ICAS, Intertribal Council of Point Hope, 13 Bristol Bay villages, and other tribal councils who have passed resolutions against opening up the Arctic Refuge. This represents just about all of the Native people in Alaska. Mr. Thompson believes this should be considered.

Mr. Thompson commented on the other oil that is available in Alaska that is separate from the Arctic Refuge. He calculated from the news that there has is 90 billion to 100 billion barrels of oil that is separate from the Arctic Refuge, which is enough to supply the ongoing rate of production for another 200 years. It is not necessary to go into the Arctic Refuge. He believes it is very speculative, very expensive for the industry, and is not connected to the Trans-Alaska

pipeline. Mr. Thompson believes these issues should be considered. He discussed that the State went to legal action with the oil industry to develop leases at Point Thompson that industry had for 30 years. He believes it is hypocritical that the State is now proposing to purchase leases and sit on them until some day somebody might buy them. Mr. Thompson noted the state has pushed industry into developing leases to make money for the State, but now they are acting contrary to their own lawsuits. He discussed it is questionable how this action is going to operate since 12 banks will not fund these projects.

Ed Martin informed he and Kathleen Martin are Alaska residents and are calling from the Big Island. Mr. Martin noted his family is second generation prior to statehood and he has a great-grandson born last December. Mr. Martin described the two ways in which the West was settled; the Homestead Act and the mining law. The federal government is abiding by the proper means for which a transfer of mineral rights would go to the private sector. Once again, government seems to get in the way of the development of mineral rights by the private sector. Mr. Martin questions this action.

Mr. Martin explained that he spoke with the AIDEA Chairman, but not Chair Pruhs. Mr. Martin expressed hope that Chair Pruhs will someday call Mrs. Martin, who has a women-owned company that would like to bid on work in Alaska, but cannot for other reasons, and Chair Pruhs can find out why if he makes the phone call. Mr. Martin expressed concern for whether or not Alaska and its people will ever realize the full value of the bundle of rights of land ownership, which is one of the American ideals in a free republic. Mr. Martin believes there is so much going wrong in this world today and maybe people should be spending more time with their families the day before Christmas instead of having this meeting. He encouraged people to be with their families together and not fear the virus. Mr. Martin discussed he and his wife are still in Hawaii and have been land-locked and are not happy. They have more work outside of the state of Alaska than in the state.

Mr. Martin informed that they sent comments asking for an explanation as to why another government entity wants to control the mineral resources fully. He questioned AIDEA's authority and the expertise to bid on the leases. Mr. Martin requested to know if there is any conflict of interest that may be occurring, other than the conflict to the Open Meetings Act. He noted he is hearing a lot of dissension that he should not be hearing. Mr. Martin would like the best for Alaskans.

Raymond O'Neale (sp), North Pole, expressed concern that there is not time being provided in this process to consider all of the ways to allow AIDEA to spend \$20 million of the Arctic Infrastructure Development Fund (AIDF) on bidding for fossil fuel extraction. He believes this is irresponsible and it is likely a violation of Alaskan's own securities regulations, given the financing authority that the State grants AIDEA. Mr. O'Neale noted the so-called new project for AIDEA is not financing for industrial development and justifying it as such is a losing proposition, given the decline of the fossil fuel industry. Despite the sinking markets, the unprecedented profits realized by the industry do not indicate a need for financing by AIDEA to prop them up.

Mr. O’Neale expressed concern that what we are seeing is market manipulation with an attempt to cede bidding and anchor low prices on leases as a favor, as a signal to industry insiders. Alaskans should be enraged of the State’s continual undercutting of the value of our resources so that out of state corporations can increase profits, while Alaskans are suffering austerity budgets.

Mr. O’Neale believes that if AIDEA is dedicated to issuing financing from the AIDF in such an uncertain economy, it should consider an emergency transfer of those funds to their over-extended AK CARES funding program to benefit Alaska small businesses suffering during this pandemic. Otherwise, financing from the AIDF should be evaluated publically, alongside other infrastructure needs of the North Slope, including engaging the parties responsible for abandoned and contaminated sites, along with financing for good-paying jobs with local contractors to clean up the mess the oil and gas industry is leaving behind on their way out of Alaska.

Mr. O’Neale expressed that this resolution should not be allowed to stand. Alaskans should be enraged at what is being attempted by this Administration and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) should be admonished for compromising their own mission and public trust in this low-bid transfer of State land to a dying and toxic industry. Mr. O’Neale informed that with due respect, he disagrees emphatically with the retired Governor that these developments are not encouraging and that AIDEA needs to step back and cancel this resolution.

Julian (sp) Dans (sp) noted that he is a graduate student at the University of Alaska Fairbanks specializing in permafrost hydrology. Mr. Dans addressed that Governor Murkowski commented today that six to seven environmental organizations are opposed to this action. Mr. Dans clarified there are maybe six to seven lawsuits, but the number of environmental organizations opposed to this action is much, much higher than that. Mr. Dans commented that all six major U.S. banks are in opposition to funding projects in ANWR. He reiterated that AIDEA is trying to patch a declining industry that the State of Alaska is already way too heavily invested in and that AIDEA should be focused on diversifying and serving the people of Alaska.

Mr. Dans commented that Governor Murkowski also mentioned that the USGS put forward a statement in 1998 that assessed the amount of oil within the Refuge. Mr. Dans clarified that statement was based on seismic explorations conducted in 1984, almost 40 years ago. Seismic explorations have not been conducted in the Refuge since. He noted that AIDEA does not have a good understanding of what is on the lands they are trying to bid on. Three-dimensional seismic exploration activities will have immense effects on permafrost. The proposal is to run 400-meter spaced grids across the entirety of the 1002 Marsh Creek exploration region, resulting in 61,000 square kilometers’ worth of tundra damage. This is an enormous impact that should not be underestimated, which occurs prior to any drilling or pipeline activity. Mr. Dans commented that Governor Murkowski saying “sacred place or whatever” was insensitive.

Kay Brown (sp) advised that she is speaking as an individual Alaskan and as a former Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Director, who managed the State of Alaska’s Oil and Gas Leasing Program under Governor Hammond and Governor Sheffield. Ms. Brown opposes the proposal to purchase leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for a number of reasons. This is a dubious investment as evidenced by lack of industry interest, which is the driving justification for AIDEA to bid. The world is moving on in a wake of oil dependence, as

evidenced by the recent actions of financial institutions in the U.S. and worldwide dampening future prospects for financing Arctic oil development.

Ms. Brown believes the proposal by AIDEA is completely contrary to the point of issuing oil leases, which is not speculation as this, but rather to identify entities with the capability and expertise to find and successfully develop the resource should any be discovered. Ms. Brown commented that AIDEA has neither the capability nor the expertise required to be a proper federal lessee and this is not an appropriate role for AIDEA. She discussed that it is unwise to risk our resources in an arena where we have certainty of litigation over the federal government's rushed and flawed process. Additionally, it is unclear whether AIDEA is even authorized to act since the Legislature failed to confirm the Board appointments and is filing a lawsuit over the issue.

Ms. Brown commented that it is unclear whether AIDEA is exceeding its authority and she believes AIDEA needs legislative authorization. Ms. Brown noted that she stands with those who value the sacred and irreplaceable nature of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The climate crisis is even more imperative to leave ANWR undeveloped.

Mike Duplue (sp) of Fairbanks commented he agrees with previous comments that this whole process seems rushed and is wildly disrespectful to Alaskans and Alaskans' time. He believes that joining in on this lease is an incredibly poor idea and echoed some of the previous comments. Mr. Duplue commented that he reviewed the website, specifically the "About" page, which mentioned diversification. He requested an explanation why AIDEA wants to concentrate investment in an industry that the rest of the world is moving away from, the banks will not fund, the private industry is not investing, insurers are not guaranteeing insurance, and there is an unknown whether or not the federal government is going to grant drilling permits. Mr. Duplue believes this decision is looking into the future only six months ahead without looking in the future a year ahead, two years ahead or decades ahead for the future of Alaskans and Alaskan industry.

Mr. Duplue believes this decision ignores the fact that this whole industry is fueling the global climate crisis, at the forefront of which is Alaska. Every Alaskan is experiencing climate change now. He commented there are currently 15 states as plaintiffs in one case, another three organizations as Plaintiffs in Case 320 CV-205, and other litigation in Case 320 CV-204. Mr. Duplue expressed that there could not possibly be more people opposed to this lease sale, including 40,000 written letters of opposition submitted to the DOI. Mr. Duplue does not understand how AIDEA can move forward with this action.

Rick Whitbeck (sp) informed that he has lived in Alaska for over 35 years and is testifying in a personal capacity. He discussed that Alaska's entrance in the U.S. was predicated on having a standalone economy, so as not to be a burden to the U.S. Alaska has done well by taking its god-given natural resources and developing them in balance with world class environmental stewardship. Alaska has waited a long time for ANWR to open. It has been a vicious fight for nearly 40 years and will victoriously culminate with a lease sale and bid opening on January 6th. Mr. Whitbeck believes the incoming Administration is determined to destroy Alaska's energy

driven economic future. The time is now to take a stand and have bids on every possible tract offered for leasing.

Mr. Whitbeck applauds AIDEA's actions under Resolution G20-31 to place minimum bids on as many acres as the budget will allow. He wishes the budget was bigger. Mr. Whitbeck noted that regardless of the near continuous whining from the anti-job, anti-reality, anti-Alaskan, anti-energy independent, pro-Chinese, anti-American, pro-destitution, pro-weakened American stature, pro-wildlife above human life, leave-it-in-the-ground eco-extremists, there is a bright, necessary and long-term need and future for oil and gas. He believes ANWR should be a keystone for America moving forward.

Mr. Whitbeck believes that for every opposition and bank kowtowing to unsubstantiated fear rather than fact, there are thousands of Alaskans who support 1002 development. He encouraged AIDEA to bid now to the maximum ability as if Alaska's economic future depends on it. Mr. Whitbeck believes if Biden gets his way, a man who has not been to Alaska since he gave a eulogy for Senator Ted Stevens, who could care less about Alaskans, and whose plans will decimate the state, this lease sale may be the end of Alaska's federal development opportunities. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas. Mr. Whitbeck stated that for the radical environmentalists on the line, America's energy workers simply say, "In spite of all you do to thwart them, you're fracking welcome."

John Gaedeke of Fairbanks urged the Board and staff to be more transparent and accountable, as the Bylaws demand. Mr. Gaedeke informed that he has had a front row seat the past seven years watching AIDEA stumble and lurch into the Ambler Road zombie megaproject, hemorrhaging millions and still not even meeting with Doyon to discuss usage rights. Mr. Gaedeke questioned how AIDEA believes they can go into the 1002 and help. He hopes AIDEA will listen to the educated and attentive comments received today. Mr. Gaedeke believes AIDEA has consistently deceived the villagers from Evansville to Allakaket and Kotzebue to Kobuk with last-minute meetings during times when as few people as possible can attend, and today is no different. Mr. Gaedeke believes AIDEA has become the poster child of what AIDEA is not supposed to do. AIDEA is supposed to represent Alaskans and work to increase diversifying job opportunities.

Mr. Gaedeke discussed people used to be able to call in to these meetings and talk about statewide concerns for at least three minutes. The agenda and the amount of time that Alaskans can call in has been narrowed. Mr. Gaedeke believes AIDEA appears to fear public comments and the needs of remote Alaskans, but will happily dredge up voices that agree with AIDEA and give them unlimited time to spin straw into gold with other people's money. He believes this is bad business and feels the Board would be far more accountable if they were spending their own money.

Mr. Gaedeke asked for one responsible project that will benefit Alaskans to be vetted and moved forward. Businesses across Alaska are barely holding on and AIDEA is taking off like a dog after a squirrel with roads, mines, and leases in all directions. Mr. Gaedeke does not believe AIDEA can possibly pay for all of these different things. He requested an audit. Mr. Gaedeke does not think AIDEA can out-bid and out-build the free market. He hopes AIDEA will listen to his comments and the previous eloquent comments.

Jodi Potts of Fairbanks expressed opposition to the resolution and AIDEA bidding on the lease sales. Ms. Potts discussed she was born and raised in Alaska. The Arctic Refuge is very sacred to her Gwich'in people. She noted the Gwich'in adamantly oppose development in this area. Ms. Potts stated she does not appreciate Governor Murkowski making light of the sacred land for the Gwich'in. She also believes it is short-sighted of the State agency AIDEA. Climate change is impacting Alaska and the Arctic more than any other place. Ms. Potts sees other agencies trying to aid communities and mitigate the climate change impacts. She does not believe the resolution is in the best interest of Alaskans.

Ms. Potts feels strongly that a State agency does not support all Alaskans and the huge current need in the state. The state experienced a financial hit when the oil prices decreased. She does not understand the agency bidding on the lease sale when oil has not sustained the State's economy. Ms. Potts feels that not thinking about future generations is unwise and unethical. She feels it is important to think about what is left for other Alaskans. Ms. Potts encouraged AIDEA to look toward more sustainable economic development, especially around renewables. She believes AIDEA is going down the wrong path.

Rick Steiner (sp) of Anchorage agreed with many speakers that the public process has been insufficient. He expects AIDEA knows this. Mr. Steiner commented that the draft resolution proposing that the State, through its instrument AIDEA, bid of federal oil leases in the Arctic Refuge is both inappropriate and likely ineligible under federal law. Mr. Steiner noted it is the clear intent of Congress that federal oil leases be offered to the private sector, not state government, and the proposed resolution betrays the free market capitalist, conservative principles that so many on the Board espouse. If the leases have commercial value, the private market will reflect that, but by trying to avoid embarrassment from little industry interest in the sale, for the State to now bid on the leases itself would be folly, farce, and far more embarrassing.

Mr. Steiner commented that many do not think that AIDEA would qualify as an eligible bidder for these federal oil leases. Mr. Steiner informed for the record that he filed a formal complaint with Department of Interior's Office and Inspector General asking for an urgent investigation of this issue, as he believes federal law does not permit State governments or agencies to bid on federal oil leases. He believes BLM statements of sales does not strictly confirm with federal law on this matter and the State and AIDEA would not qualify as a bidder. Mr. Steiner requested the IG to instruct BLM to hold in abeyance any AIDEA bids on January 6th, until it confirms whether the State is or is not a qualified bidder. The IG responded that Mr. Steiner's complaints will be assigned to an investigator or agent as soon as possible. Mr. Steiner requested Board members do the right thing for the people of Alaska and vote down the resolution, which will spare the State further humiliation.

Ken Castner of Homer objected to the meeting not running in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. He noted this is not the first time he has levied this complaint, but the Board continues to carry on like it is a private firm, rather than an agency dealing with public funds, using a well-established public process. Mr. Castner discussed the resolution deserves to be publically debated by the Board. If the motion passes, then the business elements can be

discussed in private. In choosing to enter into an executive session prior to public debate, the Board is signaling that the decision has already been made with all the details worked out.

Mr. Castner expressed he is not in favor of the State using public resources to go into the oil business. He believes it is a classic case of mission creep. While AIDEA is organized to provide financing to establish businesses, this venture borders on risky speculation. Mr. Castner views this as a political gesture of creating a market where one may not necessarily exist. This will also place the State in a position of having to fulfill the requirements of the leases. That may mean further investment in exploration and infrastructure construction or entering into joint venture development deals with businesses the public has never heard of.

Mr. Castner expressed his disappointment that the Department of Law, in advising AIDEA, has chosen to turn a blind eye to the Open Meetings Act. He feels the only upside to today's meeting is that it further exposes AIDEA's culture of secrecy and chronic disregard to complying with a clearly written law that requires an observable and transparent process.

Karlin Itchoak stated his Inupiat name and informed that he comes from a long line of Itchoak family members from the Arctic. He informed that he is commenting today as the Alaska State Director for the Wilderness Society. Mr. Itchoak requested the Board take no action on this resolution today. He discussed we are in the middle of a pandemic and AIDEA's public input process needs to be better than giving last-minute, 48 hours' of notice to provide comments. Mr. Itchoak noted that the Board is not following the protocols necessary for allowing adequate public comments and the Board is depriving the shareholders and the stakeholders of their due process rights of timely notice and opportunity to be heard.

Mr. Itchoak commented that in addition, this Board is violating its own enabling statute and internal investment policies and procedures by failing to seek legislative approval. He believes this is a violation of AIDEA's fiduciary duties under Alaska law and violates AIDEA's statutory purpose, which is to finance others, not to finance AIDEA. Mr. Itchoak believes the proposed action is made more unconscionable since Alaska is in the middle of a financial crisis and AIDEA could be using these funds to help others, rather than for self-dealing. Mr. Itchoak discussed that the State cannot afford the bid nor the rental costs.

Mr. Itchoak stated the Arctic Refuge is a majestic landscape on which people and animals alike depend. The Alaska Native communities like the Gwich'in and the Inupiat have relied on and protected the Refuge for millennia. The Refuge sustains the communities, cultures, and way of life. The Honorable Governor Murkowski said, "Whether it is a sacred place or whatever." Mr. Itchoak stated that disregarding this area as a sacred place is the same as disregarding the indigenous people themselves. He believes AIDEA's lack of due diligence is grossly negligent and the State has all the financial risks, especially knowing that the Biden Administration is soon going to protect the coastal plain.

Mr. Itchoak discussed this action is widely inappropriate, fiscally irresponsible, and legally suspect. AIDEA should not be bidding in the coastal plain lease sale. He requested that AIDEA does not take this vote today.

Lauri (sp) Walton (sp) informed that she is a 40-year Alaska resident living in Fairbanks. Ms. Walton expressed that she is strongly opposed to AIDEA using \$20 million, and is opposed to Governor Murkowski's urging AIDEA to spend more of the State's money for oil leases in ANWR. Ms. Walton reviewed her four main reasons. She explained Alaska is ground zero for climate change caused by the burning of fossil fuels. Ms. Walton believes we need to wake up and stop investing in fossil fuels.

Ms. Walton discussed that Alaska is in an economic, health, and climate crisis. She believes Alaska needs to diversify its economy, not sink more money into a dangerous business that is killing us all. Ms. Walton noted she finds the short notice for public comments and dubious behaviors frustrating, as she spends her time before the holiday waiting to comment before AIDEA. She expressed the utter disregard for the wishes of the Native peoples of this land who have taken care of this great state of Alaska for millennial. Ms. Walton believes we owe them respect and should take lessons from their way of learning and being. She expressed strong opposition to AIDEA's actions.

Shannon Donahue, Executive Director of the Great Bear Foundation, noted that she is phoning in from Haines and is opposed to AIDEA's proposal to bid on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge oil leases. Ms. Donahue believes this is an irresponsible expenditure of State resources and AIDEA's last-minute proposal is denying Alaskans meaningful opportunity to weigh in. The Great Bear Foundation is concerned with the direct impacts of oil development on the Gwich'in people and their ongoing relationships with the Porcupine Caribou Herd and the land and clean water that sustain people and wildlife.

Ms. Donahue discussed that the Great Bear Foundation is also concerned with the broader impact that oil development has on the climate, affecting everybody. She noted that Haines is reeling from unprecedented climate change resulting in massive landslides that have destroyed homes. AIDEA's insistence on forcing controversial and unpopular oil development in ANWR further contributes to anthropogenic climate change and ignores the very real pain of communities like Haines that are suffering the wounds inflicted by the climate crisis.

Ms. Donahue stated AIDEA was established to diversify Alaska's economy with an eye toward financial sustainability. We have reached a point in human history where financial sustainability is inextricably tied to environmental sustainability. As oil companies and banks shy away from ANWR, AIDEA should take notice. Climate change will only cost the State money in the long run. There is a great opportunity for AIDEA to seek innovative ways to diversify our economy without causing harm to our communities and our natural systems.

Ms. Donahue indicated that in a time of overlapping crises, AIDEA should prioritize boosting local economies and local businesses. Sustainable growth starts with communities. She suggested that the Board take some time to reflect on what they are doing and take this opportunity to reimagine an Alaskan economy that sustains our people, the great land, and our fish, wildlife, and clean water.

Bree (sp) Goldstein (sp) of Fairbanks opposes AIDEA's bidding on oil and gas leases in the Arctic Refuge on January 6th. If the goal of AIDEA is to promote, develop and advance

economic growth and diversification in Alaska, then bidding on oil leases is a bad allocation of funds. Alaska relies heavily on oil and is struggling to keep up with the budget during a pandemic resulting in crashing oil prices. Ms. Goldstein believes that instead of putting more money into the oil industry, AIDEA should focus on transitioning to a diverse economy beyond fossil fuels.

Ms. Goldstein discussed the extraction of fossil fuels is leading to irreversible climate change affecting all Alaskans more drastically than other parts of the country. Additionally, drilling in this region will have disproportionate affects on the indigenous communities who have lived in sacred relation to the land and the animals there for thousands of years. This rushed Arctic Refuge oil lease sale is projected to emit an additional four million tons of carbon dioxide, further compromising Arctic people's way of life and violating their basic human rights.

Ms. Goldstein noted that additionally, the continuous reliance on fossil fuels can be costly. Climate adaptations projects are projected to cost \$30 billion. In accordance with AIDEA's goal of advancing economic growth and diversification, Ms. Goldstein requested AIDEA consider other revenue sources and focus on the creation of meaningful and sustainable jobs that promote renewable energy, rather than jobs that contribute to the destruction of the planet.

Diane Preston (sp) informed that she is a 72-year-old resident of Fairbanks and expressed opposition to AIDEA bidding on oil and gas leasing in ANWR. Ms. Preston believes it is unconscionable to have a short few days process for public comment on such an important issue, particularly during the pandemic and holiday week. She does not believe that speaks well for those who thought this could be accomplished under the radar.

Ms. Preston disagreed with Governor Murkowski and believes things have changed drastically in the last 25 years. Living in Alaska 25 years ago was a different experience and that is because of climate change, which is real and accelerating. It is already costing billions of dollars in the U.S., as well as in Alaska. Villages are falling into the sea. Permafrost is melting, causing village houses to settle. Landslides in Southeast are occurring. Ms. Preston believes Alaska needs to diversify the economy and get away from a fossil fuel extraction economy. Even the oil companies are beginning to understand that oil is not the future.

Ms. Preston believes that AIDEA needs to invest in projects that reflect the new economy. Wind power, hydro, solar, geothermal, and tidal power are all viable in different parts of Alaska and can help power Alaska. These projects need investments and the \$20 million could be used to make Alaska more sustainable in the future. Ms. Preston also thinks it is imperative to preserve the coastal plain of ANWR, which is the ancestral homeland of the Gwich'in people and it is part of the last large undeveloped ecosystems in the world. There are few places left in the world like this and it is so important for migratory birds and the other animals. Ms. Preston noted that there is ample acreage available elsewhere on the North Slope for oil development and to destroy this fragile ecosystem and the livelihood of people who have depended on this land for years, for just an estimated six months' worth of oil is foolish and not responsible.

Ms. Preston discussed that AIDEA does not have the best track record of investing in viable projects. She informed that she worked in Delta Junction and remembers well the boondoggle of

the Delta barley project. Ms. Preston encouraged AIDEA to pay more attention to their investments. She believes to invest in oil leases in ANWR when the world is moving away from fossil fuel, as a matter of survival, is a fool's errand. Ms. Preston urged AIDEA to find other more responsible projects in which to invest.

Chandler (sp) Kemp (sp) of Juneau expressed opposition to AIDEA's proposed bids on oil and gas leases described in Resolution G20-31. Mr. Kemp noted that he wants to build on what the previous caller said and wants to ensure that the Board considers the risks of its investment becoming a stranded asset. Existing oil and gas infrastructure worldwide is inconsistent with the goals defined in the Paris Climate Agreement. Specifically, committed emissions from existing infrastructure are likely the result in the most severe consequences of climate change described by the intergovernmental panel on climate change.

Mr. Kemp explained that developing new oil and gas infrastructure will increase the gap between stated climate goals and fossil fuel investments. So while the U.S. is not presently committed to the Paris Climate Agreement, President-Elect Biden has stated that the country will rejoin the agreement in the coming year. Therefore, investing in new oil and gas exploration will result in a stranded asset if the U.S. and international actors adhere to their agreement.

Mr. Kemp discussed that in addition to the cultural and environmental concerns expressed by earlier callers, he request AIDEA consider the risks carefully that the investment will result in stranded assets due to the bids on leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Odin (sp) Miller (sp) of Fairbanks informed that he is literally driving around right now doing some last-minute Christmas shopping and the idea of having a two-day public comment period during the last few days before Christmas is an insult to him as an Alaskan. Mr. Miller feels like this is a violation of his civic right to participate in the public process. He does not believe this is nearly enough time. He found out about the public comment period yesterday morning and was able to submit comments in the last five minutes. Mr. Miller stated he feels like this process is intentionally coordinated in a way to discourage public participation. He is heartened to see that there is such a vigorous discussion today.

Mr. Miller believes Governor Murkowski was out of touch when he was Governor and he believes that he has gotten even more out of touch over the years. Mr. Miller echoes previous comments in saying that it is deeply insulting and insensitive to refer to the Arctic Refuge as that sacred place. Mr. Miller believes if there were going to be oil drilling rigs parked in front of the Vatican's St. Peter's Cathedral, that would be a deep affront to many people. He believes in the same way, the Gwich'in Nation holds the Arctic Refuge as sacred land and encouraging and promoting drilling is maybe in the interest of some Alaskans, but it is an insult to many Alaskans.

Mr. Miller discussed that he is not a radical environmentalist, as another caller suggested. Mr. Miller noted that he is someone who has a one-year old daughter and wants her to have a future when she is his age. Mr. Miller does not want Alaska to be saddled with billions and billions of dollars worth of debt because of the cost of climate change and risks of economic speculation by corporations like AIDEA that are supposed to act in the public's interest. Mr. Miller urged

AIDEA not to approve spending the money on bidding on these leases. He feels this is gambling with Alaskans' money.

Kathy (sp) Walling (sp) of Fairbanks informed that she is choosing to cede some of her time to lift up the comments from an elder, Sue Dean (sp). Ms. Walling noted that Ms. Dean is currently in her 90's, and wants to be stated for the record that if these hardworking and inspired leaders of the Alaska Conservation Society, like Ginny Woods, Celia Hunter, and others were still alive, they would speak strongly against drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Alaska Conservation Society members were very excited when the team left Fairbanks in the 1950s to choose the sacred land that was to become the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge with much hard work. The team was convinced by the millions of birds and mammals who found what they needed to bring forth and raise their young, and by the Gwich'in people's knowledge of this irreplaceable knowledge to maintain their way of life.

Ms. Walling continued that today, when oil is no longer what our planet needs for energy, and the untouched aspect of this land is so rare, let us make the wiser choice to allow it to remain the refuge it was meant to be. Ms. Walling invited Board members to take into their hearts the words of elder Ms. Dean, as well as upholding all of the children and future generations in holding precious this sacred place.

Matthew Jackson of Ketchikan informed that he is a third generation Alaskan and his grandparents had Governor Murkowski and Nancy Murkowski over for dinner when they lived in Ketchikan many years ago. Mr. Jackson pointed out a fallacy, with all due respect to the former Governor, in his talking point for AIDEA to invest in this coastal plain, which is AIDEA will get half off because half of the lease revenues come back to the State. Mr. Jackson noted that if there were economically viable leases to bid on, the State would receive the revenue anyway. Setting up the false expectation that the State will get a half-price bid is actually not true because AIDEA is still spending more than the State would receive if an outside entity would bid on the leases. Mr. Jackson feels this seems to be the chief merit in the offer from the former Governor Murkowski for AIDEA to bid on this half-price, which is really not true. The public money is being shuffled, rather than actually receiving revenue.

Mr. Jackson discussed his desire to lift up all of the previous strong testimony during this meeting. He believes there are many economic and legal questions regarding the wisdom of AIDEA, a public entity, getting involved in the Arctic Refuge. Mr. Jackson believes that the used car sales kind of thinking that if we bid it ourselves, we'll get half back, is unwise when this may be a ticket to decades of litigation. He noted that the actual lease sale itself is in court right now and the validity of some of the Commissioners is being challenged. A suit has been brought forth by the State Legislature because some of the appointees have not been approved by the Legislature. The sale is being challenged by the BLM. It will be challenged for years and years, if it ever comes through. Mr. Jackson encouraged AIDEA to spend time and energy investing in a meaningful public process where people have the chance to be heard and to learn about AIDEA's ideas. He urged AIDEA to use the limited funds and time to invest in worthy projects that would benefit all Alaskans.

Julie-Anne (sp) Warren (sp) expressed appreciation for previous comments. She noted her comments are more of a moral and philosophical narrative. Ms. Warren believes it is hard to change, but climate change is demanding a correction to business as usual. She feels that this can be done together while supporting each other. Ms. Warren discussed that sometimes uncertainties tempt people into trying to control things. Power for power's sake must eventually become pyrrhic, as evident in AIDEA's resolution for bidding on Refuge leases, given that the moral, economic, climate, and potentially legal issues are problematic.

Ms. Warren believes AIDEA's idea represents power speaking desperation for itself, not for indigenous peoples, nor for settlers. She asked what is needed; oil and gas or reliable energy, fossil fuel driven economy or flourishing economies, oil and gas or thriving caribou, oil and gas or clean food, oil and gas or a habitable climate, oil and gas or Gwich'in and Inupiat human rights justice and the wisdom of time and memorial life ways, oil and gas or neighborly love? Ms. Warren asked whose neighbor is she and whose neighbor are you. Is it worth selling your own or someone else's birthright for a possible bowl of buried hydrocarbons and the toxic and climate altering consequences of burning them?

Ms. Warren does not believe we can keep all of the spoken and not yet spoken values if we continue to prioritize oil and gas. This is chemistry, physics and other material realities speaking and not just her and others' opinions. Ms. Warren asked if Alaskans are grit and determination or are Alaskans oil and gas. Are Alaskans about power for power's sake or liberty. Ms. Warren believes liberty is added to the list of values and is rooted in healthy land relationships and a habitable climate. How free does sickness make anyone? With grit and determination, and without oil and gas, together, Alaskans can make good things happen for generations to come. Sitting with each other in disagreements and conflicts can be keys to moving forward. Ms. Warren asked if we can together put domination and dominating activities off the table and shift the questions. Chair Pruhs gave a 10-second warning and expressed appreciation to Ms. Warren for her comments after she exceeded her public comment time.

An unidentified speaker was indiscernible due to telephonic interference.

Marie Dashowski (sp) noted she is a lifelong Alaskan who grew up in Fairbanks. Ms. Dashowski requested AIDEA dismiss this resolution, and at the very least postpone voting until it is established that AIDEA can actually be a qualified bidder. Ms. Dashowski asked that AIDEA proceed in accordance with the State Constitution which she believes requires legislative approval for this consideration of bidding of leases.

Ms. Dashowski informed that she has been to the Arctic Refuge countless times and it is a huge part of her life. At the age of 16, she began to research the politics around the formation of the National Wildlife Refuge and proposed oil extraction. Ms. Dashwodka noted she is now 33 years old and has spent half of her life fighting this fight. She is still leaping because of the names of the elders that were brought into this space and she speaks now in honor of Ginny and Delia Wood, her Fairbanks grandmothers. Ms. Dashowski informed that she speaks for the indigenous rights that this action is threatening, the Inupiat and Gwich'in leaders who have previously commented.

Ms. Dashowski noted that many points in her comments have already been discussed and she will skip ahead in her notes to the \$30 billion that climate adaptation and mitigation is projected to cost the State of Alaska. What AIDEA is considering now is a very bad investment. This is not the time to double-down on oil. Ms. Dashowski believes that when former Governor Murkowski speaks of a frustration that we all share in Alaska, he is wrong. However, he is right when he says that Alaska is becoming a poster child. Alaska is the poster child of climate injustice and yet, AIDEA wants to continue to invest in what is causing the climate catastrophe that is already threatening people's lives and livelihoods.

Ms. Dashowski expressed that she wants to envision a thriving future for all Alaskans and future generations, and oil is threatening that in her own lifetime. She stated that she is not an eco-extremist and is not a radical environmentalist, and Rich is right, Alaska's economic future depends on this. Alaska must diversify beyond fossil fuels and instead of extracting, invest in regenerative economies for all.

Chair Pruhs noted that it is 5:00, and the public comment period will be extended for an additional 30 minutes to ensure as many comments as possible are heard.

Jessica Girard, Executive Director Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition (FCAC), explained FCAC is a growing group of Fairbankans concerned about the moral, spiritual, and scientific duty to take action and elevate voices calling for responsibility to each other, the earth, and all living beings. FCAC members are not radical environmentalists. FCAC members are local partners and members of a community working for climate adaptation and climate justice. It is the opinion of FCAC that AIDEA has strategically rushed this process in order to minimize public input on a decades-long battle over lease sales in the Arctic Refuge.

Ms. Girard added that it is obviously inappropriate and likely illegal for AIDEA to discuss anything about the Refuge lease sales in executive session. As a State agency established to promote economic opportunity for the State and its residents, spending \$20 million on oil leases is a poor allocation of AIDEA's \$35 million Arctic Infrastructure Fund. In a time of economic recession, climate chaos, and a global health pandemic, AIDEA should be working with tribal and local governments to diversify revenue sources, rather than increasing dependence on the dying industry of fossil fuels.

Ms. Girard discussed that with this expenditure due to existing policies, according to Dermot Cole, instead of getting 90% of the lease sale money or even 50%, the State would get nothing. Alaskans have a rapidly closing window of opportunity to build an economy that is based on regeneration, instead of extraction, to achieve healthy livelihoods for workers and for communities. FCAC stands in solidarity with workers and encourages AIDEA to support those workers transition off of oil and gas and to invest locally on local-driven solutions. Ms. Girard believes it is totally inappropriate and violates the trust of the Alaskans that AIDEA has provided only three working days before this meeting, 90 minutes of public testimony, and sharing the draft only after public pressure. This is reprehensible and FCAC demands AIDEA begin investing in locally driven economies, such as broadband and renewable energy. FCAC encourages AIDEA to immediately stop this process. Chair Pruhs gave a 10-second warning and

expressed appreciation to Ms. Girard for her comments after she exceeded her public comment time.

Chair Pruhs reminded the public to please try to limit the comments to two minutes to ensure all public comments are heard. He noted that he will provide a 10-second to 15-second time alert for the public to wrap up their comments.

Unidentified Speaker informed that he is a resident in Anchorage. He described himself as a home-grown environmentalist that grew up in Alaska and loves that aspect of Alaska. He reiterated the question that Governor Murkowski asked regarding if AIDEA is the right entity to move forward without the appropriate area of expertise. He believes the answer is no, which can be based on the current price of oil, Governor Murkowski's term of the reluctance of industry, the Gwich'in opinion, the many Native voices heard today, and the State opinion. He suggested the decision be put to vote and given more than 48 hours. Mr. Unidentified Speaker discussed public opinion was opposed to Pebble. Public opinion was opposed to Ambler. He believes there is too much to lose.

Bruce Irvin (sp) informed that he is a concerned Alaska Native from Interior who stands with the Gwich'in and Inupiat people in opposition to the passing of this resolution. ANWR is sacred. Mr. Irvin believes we need to be more responsible as Alaskans and defend ANWR and protect the Arctic. This resolution is not just investing in oil, it is investing in genocide. ANWR provides a home for the Porcupine Caribou, identity for the Inupiat and Gwich'in people. It should never be considered a commodity.

Mr. Irvin requested the Board take a moment and think about this from an Alaska Native perspective that this proposes to destroy a way of life that has sustained thousands of generations. Mr. Irvin believes we need to start investing in our future for all Alaskans. He asked; what are we going to leave for our grandchildren? Mr. Irvin discussed we need to uplift all Alaska people and move toward a new and just transition.

Sarah (sp) James informed that she is an elder from Arctic Village and has been living off the land and her people have been here for thousands of years. Ms. James stated they always protect the calving ground for the Porcupine Caribou before any of the Board members were born or in Alaska. Her people are the Caribou People. Ms. James expressed continued opposition to gas, oil, and any activities. She stated this is a short notice during a holiday. The pandemic is occurring with quarantines. Climate change is causing quick changes to warm weather that is real.

Ms. James discussed the polar bears were supposed to be protected from offshore drilling because the polar bears are an endangered species, but there is only one camp of coastline that is protected now. The polar bears go onto the 1002. Ms. James believes it is impossible to keep track of every polar bear, as was promised. She stated all of the information does not add up, especially the National Petroleum Reserve with Arctic Coastal Plains 1002. This is a totally different claim. This site is a very limited plain for the Porcupine Caribou. Chair Pruhs gave a 10-second warning and expressed appreciation to Ms. James for her comments after she exceeded her public comment time.

Kerri (sp) Stevens (sp) of Fairbanks indicated that she shares the comments of previous speakers and added to the record that the acts of the State and this agency are completely unconscionable, embarrassing, corrupt, and anti-democratic. Ms. Stevens believes this process has been a waste of her time and her money, in which she feels she has no voice. She stated the State is in a fiscal crisis. Ms. Stevens expressed concern that her son will have a failure of education and the State is not meeting its basic public safety and educational mandates, and yet, the State wastes people's time and money on this foolish, corrupt, and unconscionable act, as if the people are all fools.

Ms. Stevens feels the State is wasting the resources that have been stewarded by Alaska Natives and tribal governments for 10,000 years. She asked when the State will recognize that Alaska Native people are going nowhere and when the State will change its attitude to a positive working environment, instead of one of lawsuits, threats and continued genocide of the people of Alaska, and start a new conversation that does not demean every single one of us, every single day. Ms. Stevens expressed hope that AIDEA can please invest in our future.

Melinda Chase (sp) informed that she is commenting from a personal perspective, which is informed by the work she performs. Ms. Chase thanked the prior speaker, Ms. Stevens, for succinctly stating many of the issues that have been raised already that Ms. Chase will not reiterate, including the feeling of wasting her time tonight, instead of focusing on holiday time. Ms. Chase expressed her opposition to the bid process. She discussed that while we are looking at the 1002 area and the impact on the Porcupine Caribou Herd, this decision will impact all of Alaska. It impacts it through the climate impacts and the increased warming if development occurs. Ms. Chase believes impacts have occurred to mixed subsistence/cash economy in the last five years. Between 2014 and 2019, we have had some of the most record breaking temperatures ever, which have led to fish die-offs, the landslides that were previously discussed, flooding, erosion, and all of these effects are costs.

Ms. Chase suggested that if AIDEA reviews the National Climate Assessment IV, there is a whole chapter on Alaska. The key message is that we need proactive adaptation in Alaska that would reduce both short-term and long-term costs and generate social and economic opportunities. Ms. Chase believes Alaska has some of the best climate scientists, along with the most knowing indigenous people, who are still highly connected to our lands. She noted that she is one from an Interior community. Ms. Chase believes AIDEA could be taking advantage of the expertise that is available through our International Arctic Research Center and the reports that have been completed regarding the direction that Alaska needs to adapt, move on, and diversify the economy. Ms. Chase believes we have a responsibility not just to Alaska, but to the rest of the world. The genocide is not just of the people. Chair Pruhs gave a 10-second warning and expressed appreciation to Ms. Chase for her comments after she exceeded her public comment time.

Jordan Ebert (sp) informed that she has lived in Anchorage on Dena'ina land her whole life. She is currently a senior in the Bachelor of Science in Environment and Society Degree program at the University of Alaska Anchorage. Ms. Ebert urged AIDEA not to bid \$20 million on Arctic Refuge leases. She does not believe this is in the best interest of people, especially the Gwich'in and Inupiat people. Ms. Ebert does not believe this is in the best interest of the ecology of the

Arctic Refuge, the global climate, or the Alaska economy. She asked AIDEA to think what \$20 million could do to fund renewable energy, instead of more oil drilling.

Ms. Ebert discussed that AIDEA was established by the Legislature to promote economic opportunities for the State and its residents by diversifying the economy. Spending \$20 million on oil leases is a poor allocation of AIDEA's \$35 million Arctic Infrastructure Fund, which could instead be used to actually diversify revenue and energy sources, rather than increase dependence on fossil fuels. Ms. Ebert urged AIDEA to use the funds to diversify beyond fossil fuels and create meaningful jobs that last for generations by phasing out fossil fuels, in favor of renewable energy so that we can continue to enjoy a high quality of life without degrading our planet further. Ms. Ebert believes Alaska has so much potential for wind, hydro, and other forms of renewable energy and it is completely possible and absolutely necessary for us to transition to these energy sources.

Ms. Ebert discussed the issue of indigenous rights, which has been addressed by previous comments. For thousands of years, the Gwich'in and Inupiat people have lived in relationship with these lands and especially the caribou. Arctic people's lives are already endangered due to a rapidly warming climate and now the Arctic Refuge is under attack. This threatens ecosystems that are crucial for local food security, as well as the health of our planet, and it goes against the federal protection of these sacred lands granted by Congress 60 years ago. This Arctic Refuge oil lease sale is projected to emit an additional 4 million tons of carbon dioxide, which hurts everyone, and especially the Gwich'in and Inupiat people whose ancestral homelands these are.

Ms. Ebert stated that in her short 22 years of life, she has watched climate change unfold before her eyes. She urged AIDEA to look at the scientific evidence, listen to the people, think of the wildlife and the future generations of people who need habitat on this earth. It is not radical to move away from fossil fuels, which are scarce and environmentally damaging. Investing in renewable energy instead is actually the most ethical and financially sensible thing to do.

Adam Babcock (sp) informed that he lives in Anchorage and was writing letters to his senators and fighting this very same fight in 1995. Mr. Babcock expressed strong opposition to AIDEA's resolution to bid on ANWR drilling. He believes it is obvious from previous comments that AIDEA's public participation process is corrupt. The Trump Administration may be influencing this process and made the opportunity possible. Mr. Babcock stated that the reason we are at this point today is because the Trump Administration has opened ANWR after this decade's long fight.

Mr. Babcock noted that he has been living in Alaska full-time for many years and he is surprised we are making this same fight. He expressed surprise that Alaska still is latching onto oil as its full economic development. Mr. Babcock discussed many other callers pointed out that we need to diversify and focus on renewables. Mr. Babcock stated he wants to leave the AIDEA Board with the image over the holidays to look in their children's and grandchildren's eyes and tell them, "Yes, I am the one who enabled this final destruction of a sacred place, one of the last vestiges of wilderness in the world, certainly the last large landscape scale ungulate migration of the Porcupine Caribou Herd, and certainly the last of its kind on the North American Continent. I am the one who mortgaged your future for a dying fossil fuel industry. I am the one who made

all of this possible. Your grandfather has done this.” Mr. Babcock discussed that the public lands belong to all Americans, the minerals, the oil, everything, belongs to all Americans. It does not belong to private corporations, as the previous caller stated.

Miah (sp) Cumes (sp) stated that she is a proud Alaskan and American. She expressed her deep care about the future of Alaska and the nation. Ms. Cumes discussed that she has followed the steps taken to open up leasing of the 1002 area of the National Wildlife Refuge and after thorough analysis, she noted that this area should not even be open for leasing yet. The Environmental Impact Statement was grossly inadequate and should be revised before any decision is to be made. Ms. Cumes believes that evidence to this can be seen in the fact that instead of accounting for the impacts of a warming climate, this was ignored in the data, but used to cover up possibilities of negative impacts on oil and gas development in that area, as shown in Section S686 Ancestry 136 Section of the EIS.

Ms. Cumes requested that AIDEA veto Resolution No. G20-31, because AIDEA’s purpose is to develop and secure Alaska’s economic diversification, and opening ANWR to the possibility of potential oil and gas extraction does not do this. Ms. Cumes believes that \$20 million has the potential to do a lot of good and could be put into a renewable energy project aimed at providing energy to rural Alaska. The Alaskan economy is not doing well, and a component of that has to do with the constant decreasing returns to Alaska from oil.

Ms. Cumes asked why AIDEA would invest over half the budget into an industry with decreasing returns and high uncertainty as to the accessible quantities. She noted that it is estimated by Barrons.com and other reputable sources that the actual breakeven cost for extraction is between \$75 to \$80 per barrel. Currently, the value of oil per barrel is at \$50, and while this is expected to rise, it is not expected to rise too significantly within the next few years. Ms. Cumes discussed that a movement toward a renewable energy based society, this will not be worthwhile to Alaskans. The probability of oil going back to \$75 to \$80 per barrel is not something AIDEA should be investing Alaska’s money into, especially during this time.

Scott Fell (sp) informed that he is from Fairbanks. He expressed opposition to AIDEA’s move to bid on the leases. Mr. Fell discussed that AIDEA was established by the Legislature to promote diversifying the economy and this action is just doubling-down on the fossil fuel industry. He believes the \$20 million would be better spent in other ways to build up the renewable sources of power. He feels that with ANWR being one of the last great undeveloped areas in the world, a place where Native people and animals have all interacted for thousands of years, and with 5% of the wilderness in the world disappearing every decade, ANWR becomes more and more important to protect. ANWR is not just for Alaskans and Alaska animals, but it is a migratory destination for birds from six continents. Mr. Fell encouraged AIDEA to look for ways to diversify the economy away from oil and fossil fuel extraction and toward more renewable ways to support Alaska’s economy.

Staci (sp) Bress (sp) informed that she is a resident of Fairbanks. Ms. Bress requested AIDEA oppose the resolution to bid on leases in the 1002 area and not spend \$20 million bidding on those leases. Ms. Bress expressed support for what most of the other people have said. She

believes that \$20 million of State money could be much better spent to diversify the Alaskan economy in numerous other ways. She stated that AIDEA's charter is to diversify the economy.

Ms. Bress noted that she could spend several minutes listing all of the major banks that have decided not to invest in oil development in the Refuge. She does not understand why AIDEA would conclude that it is a good financial investment when all of the major banks found that it is not a good investment. Ms. Bress reiterated previous comments regarding the timing of the comment period is insulting and that AIDEA is cutting off Native elders at two minutes, after letting Governor Murkowski, who is just a public citizen at this point, speak at length. She discussed that AIDEA is cutting off Native elders, who live in the Arctic, in the middle of their testimony at the two-minute mark, while having asked them to comment on a moment's notice during a pandemic the day before Christmas Eve and believes it is a sad indication of the status.

Ms. Bress expressed support of AIDEA's mission to diversify the economy of Alaska, and she encouraged AIDEA to investigate any number of other renewable industries that Alaska could invest in to support the state.

Nicole James informed that she is Gwich'in Athabaskan from Fort Yukon. She does not believe it is a good idea and expressed opposition. Ms. James discussed that her family has depended on the Arctic Refuge for many generations. She expressed worry regarding what is going to happen for her children and her grandchildren. Ms. James stated that the 1002 is very sacred to her people and any kind of drilling or any kind of leasing to the land will totally disrupt the way of life for Gwich'in and other tribes, as well as the animals.

Chair Pruhs noted the time at 5:27 p.m. and one more public comment will be taken.

Pam Miller gave a critique of the process and informed that the original agenda has the wrong entering code for this call. Ms. Miller noted that she was on hold for 20 minutes trying to get on, until she found a different entering code. Ms. Miller urged AIDEA to use the funds at this time for those communities who have the urgent need to rebuild from climate change disasters in Haines and other places, to address homelessness in the Covid crisis, and for renewable energy projects that can help in the long-run. Ms. Miller urged AIDEA to oppose Resolution G20-31 and to cancel the executive session for secret talk and vote on the two confidential items of A. and B.

Ms. Miller stated she wanted to put in perspective as a previous comment did, regarding the fact that the original Refuge, including its coastal plain, were set apart for the Refuge for the protection of fish and wildlife prior to statehood, and therefore, the area was retained by the federal government that is provided in the Statehood Act. Ms. Miller discussed that in the 1950's, a key U.S.G.S. leader told the people considering establishing the Refuge to, "stay east of the Canning River and you'll be all right." Ms. Miller stated that if the geology on the North Slope is reviewed, there is not a single new oil field east of Prudhoe Bay or Endicott that is a major field. She noted that Badami flows to a trickle and has been shut on and off. There is gas, but not great quantities of oil sitting in the ground at Point Thompson west of the Canning River.

Ms. Miller commented that the Arctic Refuge is a phenomenal place and it should not be mortgaged to banks, as some of the discussion has proposed, for AIDEA's use. The Arctic Refuge and waters as they are today will have far more intangible value and economic value for Alaskan citizens, indigenous people, and people across the nation and the world for upholding Gwich'in and other indigenous cultures' ways of life, tourism, and for sequestering in place what carbon may exist to help solve the climate crisis. Ms. Miller discussed that we have celebrated the Arctic Refuge's 60th anniversary since the Republican President Eisenhower's Administration first established it after considerable public hearing and debate within Alaska. Ms. Miller urged AIDEA to stop this whole process in its tracks.

Chair Pruhs stated the time at 5:34 p.m., and notified that he will close the public comment section of the agenda.

Chair Pruhs noted that he would like to discuss a few items based on comments received before moving to New Business. He referred to a comment that AIDEA is rushing this and this is done in secrecy. Chair Pruhs stated that AIDEA recognizes that this is an accelerated timeline, which is due to the procurement process established by the federal government and beyond AIDEA's control. There has been no attempt to keep this resolution a secret. Chair Pruhs informed that the resolution that will be considered today was posted in a similar forum as any other meeting. He reminded the Board that the BLM issued the Notice of Sale on December 7th, and that it would be accepting bids between December 21st and 31st, 14 days later. The BLM later determined the bids will be open livestreamed on January 6th, 2021.

Chair Pruhs expressed that from the Board's perspective to consider the resolution, regardless of the final outcome, that legally, AIDEA can submit a bid and meets the qualifications to bid under BLM's Detailed Statement of Sale Qualifications. According to Statute 44.88.830, AIDEA has the authority to undertake an investment like bidding on these leases under the Arctic Infrastructure Development Fund. Ultimately, the Legislature established the fund in anticipation of investment opportunities such as this. Chair Pruhs noted these comments for the record. He opened the floor for other Board member comments at this time.

Mr. Fogle expressed appreciation for all of the comments today and noted that he wrote down every single person's name and what they addressed during their comment period. Mr. Fogle informed that he has read all of the 300-plus comments that came in via email through the Executive Director and expressed appreciation for receiving those comments.

Mr. Fogle discussed that this resolution is specifically what AIDEA was designed for, to create economic development in the state. Mr. Fogle noted that he heard many comments regarding renewable energy as being an alternative. He advised that AIDEA's sister organization, Alaska Energy Authority (AEA), does such renewable energy projects and there is a list of dozens shovel-ready renewable energy projects that were fought with tooth-and-nail by environmental groups, as well. So for those people that want to diversify the economy, there is a way to diversify the economy, but it is met with the same opposition.

Mr. Fogle discussed the comment that AIDEA is using State funds. He noted that AIDEA has paid a dividend to the State every year since AIDEA has been in existence and AIDEA has paid

back in full the amount of seed money that the Legislature gave to AIDEA. AIDEA is now giving money as a dividend to the general fund and no State money is being used. This is the public corporation's money going to pay for these leases.

Mr. Fogle addressed the comment regarding investing the money in other businesses. He informed that he sits on the Budget and Audit Subcommittee and discusses every day the loans that AIDEA makes. Currently, AIDEA is invested in over half a billion Alaskan businesses in the amount of loans given to Alaskan businesses. AIDEA is definitely diversifying the economy in Alaska by investing in multiple different industries. Mr. Fogle believes that one of the things that Governor Murkowski says and that the congressional delegation says best is we are a resource state and that is what Alaska was brought into the Union for, and Alaska needs to do that because there is nothing in this state that can replace resource development.

Mr. Fogle explained that everybody needs resource development; from their i-Phones to their cars, to the batteries in their electric vehicles. He asked where else would you want to do resource development, in China or India, where they just throw waste into the water and tear mountains apart and leave it that way? Here in Alaska, we develop resources in a first-class manner, while taking care of the environment. Mr. Fogle informed for the record that he will be voting in favor of this resolution. He believes resource development is our future and that is the way to diversify the economy. Mr. Fogle believes a stronger resource development industry will trickle down into the other industries in Alaska.

Chair Pruhs requested Stefan Saldanha, Assistant Attorney General from Alaska Department of law, to comment on the subjects in executive session. Mr. Saldanha advised that Alaska Statute 44.62.310 lists the subjects that may be discussed in executive session of an AIDEA Board meeting. In particular, in this case, two of those subjects may occur during this executive session. Mr. Saldanha read the wording for the record: "The following subjects may be considered in an executive session: matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the public entity." Another subject is: "Matters which by law, municipal charter, or ordinance are required to be confidential." Mr. Saldanha explained this may include, in this case, certain information subject to confidentiality protections or privilege, such as confidential business information, deliberative process privilege, and balance of interest principal.

Mr. Saldanha noted that no action may be taken during an executive session, except to give direction to an attorney or labor negotiator regarding the handling of a specific legal matter or pending labor negotiations.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Fogle to enter into Executive Session to discuss confidential matters related to a potential new project for the Arctic Infrastructure Development Fund. This is supported by the Open Meetings Act, AS 44.62.310, which allows the Board to consider confidential matters in executive session. In this case, the Board believes that these are subjects which would have an adverse effect upon the finances of AIDEA or are protected by law due to the rules protecting personal privacy and certain business information. Motion seconded by Mr. Kendig.

The motion was approved without objection.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6A. EXECUTIVE SESSION: 5:41 pm

Confidential matters related to a potential new project for the Arctic Infrastructure Development Fund

The Board reconvened its regular meeting at 7:48 pm.

6B. Resolution No. G20-31 for the funding of the Arctic Infrastructure Development Funding

Mr. Weitzner discussed that the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge was established by Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) on December 2, 1980, designating roughly 19.3 million acres in the North Slope. Section 1002 of ANILCA specifically excluded the coastal plain from a wilderness designation, setting aside 1.56 million acres for the study of its natural resources in recognition of the area's potential for oil and gas resources. Pursuant to Section 1002 of ANILCA, the Secretary of the Interior was required to conduct "An analysis of the impacts of oil and gas exploration, development, and production, and to authorize exploratory activity within the coastal plain in a manner that avoids significant adverse effects from the fish and wildlife and other resources."

Mr. Weitzner continued to explain that Section 1002, C, (d), of ANILCA required the Secretary to analyze the potential impacts of oil and gas exploration, development, and production on such wildlife habitats, and Section 1002, C, (e), of ANILCA required the Secretary to analyze the potential effects of such activities on the culture and lifestyle, including subsistence, of affected Native and other peoples. Section 1003 of ANILCA prohibited oil and gas development throughout ANWR until authorized by Congress. After decades of congressional consideration and through the dedicated efforts of Alaska's Administration, Legislature, and our legislative delegation, on December 22, 2017, Congress authorized the coastal plain oil and gas lease sale through the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, specifically Section 2001 of the Public Law 115-97.

Mr. Weitzner discussed that in exercising this authority over the management of federal lands, Congress directed the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the BLM, to establish and administer a competitive oil and gas program for the "Leasing, development, production, and transportation of oil and gas in and from the coastal plain." The statute mandates the Secretary, through the BLM, to conduct two lease sales by 2024, which requires that all necessary rights-of-way, easements for exploration, development, production, or transportation be issued, surface acres of federal land be authorized to be covered by production and support facilities. The statute sets a royalty rate for leases of 16.67% to be earned by the federal government, as well as the State of Alaska.

Mr. Weitzner advised that the lease sales are being held pursuant to the Coastal Oil and Gas Leasing Program, with the first sale scheduled for January 6, 2021. Bids for the available tracts under the program are defined in the BLM's Detailed Statement of Sale, as amended, and may be submitted by the latest, 4:00 p.m., December 31, 2020. There has been a decades' long process of environmental and social cultural impact review. Most recently, with the Environmental

Impact Statement process initiated by the BLM, and resulting in the Record of Decision, which was issued on August 2020 for the Coastal Plains Analysis, Alaskans, and really all Americans, have actively participated in the public review process.

Mr. Weitzner explained that the BLM's Record of Decision for the Coastal Plains Oil and Gas Lease Sale states, "All together, during the public scoping period and public review period for the draft EIS, the BLM received more than 1.8 million comment submissions, containing more than 8,000 unique substantive comments." Additionally, the BLM and the Department officials met with representatives of a broad range of stakeholders, including the local and state governments, tribes, Canadian government, Alaska Native corporations, and industry and environmental organizations.

Mr. Weitzner continued to explain that the Record of Decision was determined to meet its obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and based upon a reasonably determined hypothetical development scenario, citing that at some future stage in the administration of the oil and gas program were impacts from proposed actions are actually reasonably foreseen in effect, if and when the BLM is presented with proposals for exploration or development. Those decisions by the BLM for specific authorizations will also be subject to project specific analysis, including compliance with NEPA and other laws.

Mr. Weitzner expressed his belief that it is important to note that Alaska's Legislature has been a strong advocate for the responsible development of the coastal plain. Most recently, in a resolution passed in March 2019, where, "The Alaska State Legislature requests that the United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management, in its consideration of action alternatives outlined in the December 2018 Coastal Plains Oil and Gas Leasing Program Draft Environmental Impact Statement, take into account the history of safe and responsible oil and gas development in Alaska's North Slope, the enormous benefits development of oil and gas resources in the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge would bring to the state and the nation, the advances in oilfield technology that continue to shrink the impact area of oil and gas activities, and the support of residents from the North Slope Borough and across the North Slope of Alaska for oil and gas development in a portion of the coastal plain."

Mr. Weitzner discussed that AIDEA's review is not an assessment of the environmental and social cultural impacts of the coastal plain for oil and gas development. This has already been established through the BLM's process in receiving the Record of Decision. Additionally, AIDEA joins with Alaska state agencies and the Alaska Legislature in highlighting Alaska's long and established track record of responsible resource development. AIDEA's request and assessment is focused on the public interest and economic development benefits that can be achieved by the State in AIDEA participating in the bidding process.

Mr. Weitzner explained that with Resolution G20-31, AIDEA staff is requesting authorization from AIDEA's Board to evaluate the tracts available and defined within BLM's Detailed Statement of Sale and to receive the authority to fund and encumber the Arctic Infrastructure Development Fund, up to a maximum of \$20 million, in submitting a complying bid or bids for tracts under the lease sale. AIDEA has the statutory authority to undertake this development project through the Arctic Infrastructure Development Fund (AIDF) through Alaska Statute 44.88.800. The AIDF was established by the Alaska Legislature to promote and provide financing for Arctic infrastructure development and it specifically authorizes to enter into lease

agreements with government entities necessary to fulfill the purposes of the program as outlined in Alaska Statute 44.88.830.

Mr. Weitzner discussed that AIDEA was established in 1967 with a mission to work with the public and private institutions to promote, develop, and advance general prosperity and economic welfare of the people of the state. In this capacity, AIDEA has been able to direct over \$3 billion to the economic development in the state of Alaska. AIDEA's participation in the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Lease Sale advances this mission through:

- 1) increasing the economic development opportunity on the North Slope
- 2) enhancing returns to the State through increased resource development, specifically oil and gas proceeds and royalties
- 3) promoting new infrastructure development and sustained existing Alaska infrastructure, which includes the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System
- 4) providing opportunities for the growth within Alaska's oil and gas sector businesses
- 5) providing for an ongoing source of jobs for Alaskans.

Mr. Weitzner stated that he would like to recognize that AIDEA staff is only able to propose this opportunity related to Section 1002 through the dedicated efforts of a large number of Alaskans who have served and continue to serve in a public capacity, our agencies, our State Legislature, including Representative Young, Senator Sullivan, and Senator Murkowski. Staff recommends the support of the proposed resolution.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Kendig to approve Resolution No. G20-31. Motion seconded by Mr. Fogle.

Vice-Chair Karl spoke in favor of Resolution G20-31. Vice-Chair Karl informed that he read all of the testimony that was sent in. He noted that he agreed with each one of the public speakers today about diversifying into renewable energy, such as solar, wind, geo-thermal, and hydro. Vice-Chair Karl supports smoke-stack free by 2023. He believes Alaska needs to be a leader. Vice-Chair Karl described sitting in Senator Stevens' office in Washington, D.C. with the concerned scientists of America, and Senator Stevens made a commitment with him that if they helped him open ANWR, they would see renewable energy everywhere and he would promote it, but we need the money from ANWR to do that. Vice-Chair Karl expressed that he agrees with that philosophy and believes that the money that comes from ANWR, as the Senator intended, should go toward renewables.

Vice-Chair Karl stated that we have to develop the money and earn the money first, before we can move to the renewables. It takes a lot of money to get to renewables. Vice-Chair Karl stated that we have an opportunity that many people have worked for 40 years to have. Vice-Chair Karl reiterated that he agrees with everyone who testified today and appreciates their time. Vice-Chair Karl stated that he will vote in favor of the resolution.

Ms. Sande echoed Vice-Chair Karl's statements that the Board very much considered the comments that were received in writing and telephonically, both in favor and opposed. Ms.

Sande discussed AIDEA's mission and responsibility, the work conducted by the Alaska congressional delegation, the work of the Governor and his Administration, and the support of the Legislature since 1997 for the exploration in the 1002 area. Ms. Sande assured the public that their comments were very much appreciated. She expressed support for the resolution based on the amount of work that has been completed.

Commissioner Anderson expressed support for the resolution. She believes the resolution helps further the image of Alaska as being the premier developer of our natural resources in an environmentally conscious way. Commissioner Anderson informed that she has lived in Alaska her whole life and has worked in many industries. She believes Alaska manages its industries with very high standards and takes the concerns to heart of all communities and people that live in the area. Commissioner Anderson feels that the passage of the resolution will help, as Vice-Chair Karl indicated, provide funds to be able to further Alaska's other renewable goals and promote and support business development. Commissioner Anderson discussed there is no intent to take business away from the private sector that may be bidding on these tracts, but rather the intent is to see how AIDEA can play a role in ensuring that we are able to move forward in the 1002 area.

Ms. MacKinnon expressed appreciation to the hundreds of people who took time during the holiday season to weigh in on this issue via email and today's public testimony. Meaningful public participation is something that AIDEA continues to strive for. Ms. MacKinnon offered the following points for consideration to those who made comments suggesting AIDEA is trying to suppress public participation:

- BLM offered and set a timeline in the first or second week of December
- The conversation began in Alaska, specific to the lease sale, on December 9, when Governor Walker inserted an opinion piece in the "Anchorage Daily News" asking Alaskans to consider what the ANWR lease sale meant to each Alaskan, and for AIDEA to begin a discussion
- Former Governor Murkowski, on December 20, in the "Fairbanks News-Miner" offered another opinion that increased dialog around this lease sale issue

Ms. MacKinnon explained this is a new issue for AIDEA, but it is also an old issue for AIDEA, in the sense that we are all Alaskans, and discussions have occurred for decades regarding the prospects and employment opportunities that await in ANWR and the funds that it would provide for deposit into Alaska's Permanent Fund to benefit generations of Alaskans in perpetuity. Ms. MacKinnon shared on a personal level, as a former elected official, and quoted an article in the "Anchorage Daily News", by James Brooks on March 6, 2019, regarding the currently seated Legislature, where a majority of both the House and the Senate voted in favor of gas and oil development on the ANWR plains. She reiterated that every Legislature since 1997 has taken a supportive position on development opportunities in ANWR.

Ms. MacKinnon highlighted that AIDEA has heard comments from people located in Alaska including Anchorage, Arctic Village, Bethel, Brevig Mission, Cantwell, Chickaloon, Denali Borough, Douglas, Fairbanks, Girdwood, Gustavus, Haines, Homer, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan,

Moose Pass, Palmer, Seward, Sitka, Talkeetna, Toksook Bay, Wasilla, representatives of Gwich'in and Dena'ina, and out of state communications from Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, and Washington, and out of country, Alberta, Canada.

Ms. MacKinnon discussed that Alaska is involved in paying attention and Alaskans are in need of hope, opportunity, jobs and money to pay for education and health services in the state. She thanked Chair Pruhs, Mr. Weitzner, and staff for bringing the discussion forward. Ms. MacKinnon stated that she respects all of the comments the public has provided and expects meaningful public participation. She discussed one of the people who testified from the Fairbanks area mentioned that there had been 40,000 speakers in opposition to this issue. Ms. MacKinnon noted that there have been 1.8 million people testifying during this conversation at a national level. Ms. MacKinnon discussed that with all of the thoughts for a healthy environment and for responsible economic resource development, she offered her support to the resolution to benefit all of our people.

Mr. Fogle stated that in addition to his previous comments, he extended appreciation again to the public who commented in-person and in writing. He noted that he read all of the written comments. Mr. Fogle discussed that there is a lot that we all agree on as Alaskans and as Americans, and one of those things is we want a better future for our families. Mr. Fogle expressed his concern that if resource development in Alaska and in America does not move forward, then the climate change producing emissions are outsourced to other countries, such as Russia, China, and the Far East. This is outsourcing jobs and money that could be made in American to produce the diverse economy to a more green and renewable energy economy.

Mr. Fogle discussed that the cell phones that people use, the clothes that they wear, the cars that they drive, the batteries at their house, the light bulbs, everything takes resource development, and whether we get things in America or in China and the Far East, the pandemic has brought to light that we are too dependent on China for too many goods. He believes this is a national security risk. The more that we can bring back home, he believes we can reduce pollution worldwide, and have security in America.

Mr. Fogle addressed comments regarding competing with the private sector and that the money should be spent elsewhere. He explained how AIDEA has administered \$282 million of much needed funding to Alaska's small businesses due to the Covid pandemic. AIDEA has developed the AK SAFE Guarantee Program to work with Alaska financial institutions to give surety to loans in Alaska and help businesses across the state. AIDEA has completed loan modifications delivering over \$10 million in current term payment relief to Alaskans, which continues to rise week after week. Mr. Fogle believes this issue does not have to be environmentalists versus capitalists or the economy or resource development. He believes we can do things together and that is what Alaskans should be doing; coming together to solve our problems. Mr. Fogle does not believe we should be dependent on the federal government. He believes this is the best solution to move forward and solve our own problems. Mr. Fogle stated that he is in favor of this motion and he will continue to be an advocate for resource development and renewable energy.

Mr. Kendig advised that he has read through the hundreds of comments submitted and some of the comments have been addressed today. He discussed the question of whether or not AIDEA can legally submit a bid. Mr. Kendig stated that yes, AIDEA can submit a bid and meets the qualifications based on BLM's Detailed Statement of Sale Qualifications. According to Alaska Statute 44.88.830.85, AIDEA has the authority to undertake an investment like bidding on these leases under the Arctic Infrastructure Development Fund. Mr. Kendig explained that the Legislature established this fund in anticipation of investment opportunities such as these. Mr. Kendig stated that he will be voting in favor of the motion.

Chair Pruhs expressed appreciation for everyone's comments today. He thanked Mr. Weitzner and staff for organizing today's meeting. Chair Pruhs noted that the meeting was posted five days ago and not 48 hours ago. He noted that the BLM gave notice on December 7th, as a reminder that they would be accepting sealed bids two weeks later. Chair Pruhs appreciates staff's efforts to provide as much information as possible and looks forward to receiving more information.

Chair Pruhs discussed that there are people who really care about Alaska and he appreciates them spending their time providing verbal and written comments. He hopes that everyone online today was able to provide a comment. The goal is to get as many comments as possible. Chair Pruhs encouraged AIDEA staff to review any comments that come in after today. Chair Pruhs explained AIDEA's mission is to promote and develop economic opportunities, to partner with private industry, and protect the sovereign right of the State of Alaska. Chair Pruhs believes we have the ability to do that today by passing this resolution that protects those rights and protects 40 years of everybody's efforts to open up the coastal plain of ANWR, in which he plans to support responsible development.

Chair Pruhs stated that Alaska has a stellar track record of responsible development and he believes it is better than many oil-producing states in the Lower 48. Chair Pruhs thinks that Board members are more informed, more in tune, and better understand the public concerns. He will take this understanding to heart in future decisions and contemplation of projects that come before the Board.

A roll call was taken, and the motion to approve Resolution No. G20-31 passed unanimously.

7. BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. MacKinnon asked Chair Pruhs if there is an advantage to have staff reach out to DNR to work with them in any capacity. Chair Pruhs agreed, and believes that there is an advantage for staff to work with anybody that has expertise in this line of business, especially DNR. Chair Pruhs noted DNR's information and expertise is available not only to AIDEA, but is also available to any business that is looking for information on ANWR.

Mr. Fogle expressed appreciation to Mr. Weitzner for his spectacular job. Mr. Fogle understands Mr. Weitzner is under a lot of pressure with multiple areas of focus. Mr. Fogle sees that additional staff members are being added for support. He expressed appreciation to Ms. Wilson

and to Curtis Thayer, AEA, for their diligent work efforts. Mr. Fogle hopes they will get to take some time off after the first of the year to enjoy themselves and relax.

Mr. Kendig echoed Mr. Fogle's comments. He believes staff has dedicated much time and he appreciates their efforts, especially during this time of the year.

Commissioner Anderson thanked the staff for their long hours. She stated that we are all committed to the mission of AIDEA. Commissioner Anderson discussed that issues arise when it is inconvenient for many people, but the commitment of everybody is appreciated, both the public taking the time to call in to share their views and information and the Board members and staff giving their time. She appreciates the commitment shown to ensure that Alaska has a bright future.

Vice-Chair Karl echoed previous comments.

Chair Pruhs expressed appreciation to Board members for their time today this close to the holidays. He wished everybody Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Chair Pruhs welcomed the newest member of the staff, Colleen Bryan. He thanked Mr. Saldanha, Mr. Weitzner, and Ms. Wilson for their efforts.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business of the Board, the AIDEA meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.



Alan Weitzner, AIDEA Executive Director
Secretary