



PRESS RELEASE

AIDEA Office of Communications & External Affairs
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AIDEA Responds to NANA Board Decision on Ambler Access Project

May 8, 2024 (Anchorage, Alaska) – The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) has received notice of the recent decision by the NANA Regional Corporation Board of Directors to remove themselves from the Ambler Access Project (AAP). This action will result in moving the AAP route to the north of NANA land. This maintains an access route to 600,000 acres of state mining claims. The Ambler Access Project is viable using this alternative route.

Randy Ruaro, Executive Director of AIDEA, stated, "We respect the NANA Board's decision and will adjust our plans accordingly. This project represents a significant opportunity for economic development and job creation across the region. We remain committed to consulting with local communities and tribes to ensure their concerns are addressed. We hope the NANA Board will reconsider in the future."

AIDEA has worked diligently to provide NANA with information about mitigating impacts to subsistence and workforce development, along with other benefits to the project, as demonstrated [here](#). AIDEA will continue to engage local communities such as Shungnak, Ambler, Kobuk, and others to actively seek their involvement and input. This is similar to the consultation and outreach performed by AIDEA to tribes and communities in the Doyon region, which have expressed their support for the project. Copies of tribal resolutions of support are available [here](#).

PJ Simon, First Chief of Allakaket, says, "As the first chief of Allakaket and an advocate for jobs for our young people, I continue to support the Ambler Road. The Allakaket Village passed a resolution of support to reflect our collective commitment to economic growth and creating opportunities for our people. The Ambler Road is a pathway to a better future for our community and ensuring a better future for generations to come. We will continue to work together with neighboring tribes to support responsible resource development because we need jobs to live a subsistence lifestyle."

Miles Cleveland Senior, Acting First Chief of Ambler, said, "Today in my hometown we are paying \$15 a gallon [for fuel] and if things don't change in the next few years, how are we going to warm our houses? How are we going to provide for our family? I support the Road."

Access to the Ambler Mining District is guaranteed by federal law under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Section 201(4)(b). AIDEA, the mining companies, and several Tribes and communities closest to the road will continue reviewing the project to maximize benefits for Tribal members and residents while mitigating impacts.

Ruaro further stated, “I blame the Biden Administration and Secretary Haaland for years of frustrating delay and imposing tens of millions of dollars in delay costs on a road that is required in federal law by the Statehood Act and ANILCA. Secretary Haaland does not have the legal right to break the solemn promise made by Congress in 1959 that Alaska would own lands and minerals and could access and develop those lands to generate revenue for schools, energy supplies, and healthcare of Alaskans. Nor does Secretary Haaland have the right to break the promise of access to the Ambler Mining District set by Congress in 1980 in ANILCA.”

AIDEA remains steadfast in supporting jobs and economic opportunities in Alaska. For information about AIDEA or any of AIDEA’s projects, please visit www.aidea.org or contact AIDEA at communications@aidea.org.

About Ambler Access Project: The Ambler Access Project is a proposed 211-mile, private, industrial-controlled access road to reach the Ambler Mining District in the Northwest Arctic Borough. The district is a large prospective copper-zinc mineral belt with extensive deposits of critical minerals and other elements essential for a green economy and military effectiveness. AAP was modeled after a similar AIDEA-funded industrial access road project located in the Northwest Arctic Borough, the DeLong Mountain Transportation System or Red Dog Road, in support of the Red Dog Mine

About AIDEA:

The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority is a public corporation of the State of Alaska. AIDEA’s purpose is to promote, develop, and advance the general prosperity and economic welfare of the people of Alaska.

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