



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **AIDEA Urges BLM to Consider Recent Tribal Support in Ambler Road Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement**

March 28, 2024 (Anchorage, Alaska) – The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) has formally communicated with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) regarding the importance of including recent tribal support in the decision-making process for the Ambler Access Road Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS).

The [letter](#) sent to BLM Alaska State Director, Steven Cohn, highlights tribal endorsements from several communities closest to the project - [Allakaket](#), [Ruby](#), and [Hughes](#) – and provides "good cause" for acceptance into the record along with the reminder of BLM's commitment to meaningful consultation with tribal communities—a key factor in its previous decision to revisit the original EIS.

Tribal leaders and communities closest to the project area have expressed their support, highlighting how the project aligns with their community's interests.

- **Thelma Nicholia, Chief of Hughes Village**, said, "Our future generation needs to have opportunities to earn a good living and support our families, as well as, stay in the community and practice subsistence. Supporting the Ambler Road is our way of steering towards a path of economic strength and job creation. Our commitment to our community's future is unwavering. This resolution embodies our dedication to responsible resource development and securing a prosperous future for our younger and coming generations."
- **PJ Simon, First Chief of Allakaket Village Council**, said, "In the words of Larry Westlake, the right question to ask is not 'what happens to our communities and Tribal members if a road is built and mining occurs' but 'what happens to our communities and Tribal members if a road is not built and no jobs or opportunity exists for our children and future generations.'"
- **Chief Patrick McCarty, First Chief of the Ruby Tribal Council**, said, "The Ruby Tribal Council is dedicated to ensuring jobs and opportunities for our children and grandchildren. The resolution stands as a testament to our village's dedication to responsible resource development. We want to have a say over our future and supporting the Ambler Road is one way we can plan for future generations."
- **Miles Cleveland, President of the Native Village of Ambler and Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly Member**, said, "I strongly believe that the road will

greatly benefit my community and I'm not alone. Many of my neighbors also support the road, as do other villages in the region. I worry though that our voices are getting drowned out by people outside the region [who] don't understand the struggles of my community."

- **North Slope Borough Assembly and Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly** state in their resolution the importance of "geotechnical work to proceed, and to promote responsible natural resource development that benefits our people for the long term."

**Governor Mike Dunleavy** requests BLM to consider the recent tribal support and project significance for Alaskans in the SEIS process, "The resolutions from these tribal communities are a clear indication of the importance of this project. Their inclusion in the final decision process by the BLM is not only appropriate but essential for a project of this magnitude."

"AIDEA expects BLM to recognize the weight of these community support resolutions as a critical element in the decision-making process," said **Randy Ruaro, Executive Director of AIDEA**. "Honoring the principles of collaboration and respect are central to sustainable economic development. AIDEA is committed to responsible resource development on the Ambler Access Project, mirroring the success and approach of the Red Dog Mine, which exemplifies how economic development and environmental stewardship can both be achieved."

AIDEA continues to work with tribes and communities for collaboration and consultation on the road. The Ambler Access Project Subsistence Advisory Committee recently adopted protections for fish and wildlife which emphasize the balance between responsible resource development and the protection of subsistence resources. The announcement of Resolution 2024-01 can be accessed [here](#) and on the project website at [ambleraccess.org](http://ambleraccess.org).

For video testimonials for the Ambler Access Project and copies of the tribal resolution announcements, visit the [Ambler Access Project](#).

AIDEA remains steadfast in its dedication to supporting initiatives that create jobs and contribute to the prosperity of Alaska. For information about AIDEA or any of AIDEA's projects, please visit [www.aidea.org](http://www.aidea.org) or contact AIDEA at [communications@aidea.org](mailto: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 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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