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NORTHERN ALASKA ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER\* SOVEREIGN INUPIAT FOR A LIVING  
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**Alaska Groups to AIDEA: Stop Wasting Public Money. Drop the Leases.**

In response to today's announcement that the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) has filed a lawsuit against the Department of Interior, a coalition of Alaska-based Indigenous, climate and conservation organizations issued the following statement:

"AIDEA's lawsuit is a feeble attempt to create a legal controversy over an economic benefit where none exists. AIDEA stepped in to acquire Arctic Refuge leases on behalf of the state *because* there was so little industry interest - even the oil industry and its financiers understand that drilling for oil on sacred lands is a bad business model, built on empty promises of revenue from the previous administration. In fact, the six largest banks in the US have stated that they will not fund drilling in the Arctic Refuge. [T his week's lease sale on state lands brought in record low bids, again proving there is little economic interest.](#) AIDEA insists on aligning itself with corporations and politicians rather than the people they claim to represent - people who want clean, sustainable energy, an economy that serves Alaskans rather than exploits them, and does not condone further harm to those most impacted by industrial activity.

"AIDEA has an opportunity now to move on and stop wasting Alaskans' time and money on false solutions."

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