

REPRESENTATIVE DAN ORTIZ

Alaska State Legislature / Ketchikan, Saxman, Wrangell, Hydaburg, Metlakatla, Hyder, Loring and Meyers Chuck

SESSION ADDRESS:

Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Phone: 907-465-3824
Toll Free: 1-800-686-3824
Fax: 907-465-3175



INTERIM ADDRESS:

1900 First Avenue, Suite 310
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
Phone: 907-247-4672
907-465-5269
Fax: 907-225-8546

September 16, 2021

Mr. Alan Weitzner, Executive Director
Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority
813 West Northern Lights Boulevard
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Mr. Weitzner,

As the District 36 Alaska State Representative, I support Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) proceeding with financing to Ucore Rare Metals Inc. (Ucore) for the Alaska Strategic Metals Complex (Alaska SMC) Project. The Alaska SMC is a planned rare earth separation and purification facility for the production of rare earth oxides that Ucore intends to locate in Ketchikan, Alaska.

The extraction and processing of rare earth minerals is the “new oil” on the world energy frontier. There is currently no rare earth processing taking place in the United States. The Alaska SMC represents an opportunity for Alaska to fill this void and to bring well-paying manufacturing jobs to Southeast Alaska. This project also would also help secure an electrical vehicle manufacturing future in the United States through the extraction and processing of domestic rare earth elements and other critical metals. China currently has a stronghold on these supply chains.

By funding the Alaska SMC, Ucore would create local jobs in a time of economic need, introduce a new and growing sector of the mining and manufacturing industries, and put Alaska on the map for rare earth extraction and production. This project has my full support and falls within AIDEA’s mission to promote, develop, and advance economic growth and diversification in Alaska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Ortiz".

Dan Ortiz
Alaska State Representative

Cc: The Honorable Michael Dunleavy, Governor of the State of Alaska
The Honorable Bert Stedman, Alaska State Senator (Southeast Alaska District R)
The Honorable Rodney Dial, Mayor of Ketchikan Gateway Borough
The Honorable Robert Sivertsen, Mayor of the City of Ketchikan
Mr. Pat Ryan, Chairman and CEO of Ucore Rare Metals Inc.