

Thank you, Madam Chair, and Members of the Committee. For the record, my name is Judi Greenwald, and I'm the Executive Director of the Nuclear Innovation Alliance. We're a non-profit, non-partisan think-and-do-tank focused on creating the conditions for success for advanced nuclear energy as a climate solution. I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill 177 and on microreactors more broadly.

Microreactors allow us to reimagine the role of nuclear energy. Their small size, transportability, and suitability for remote locations can help reduce Alaska's dependence on carbon-emitting energy while still ensuring reliable and resilient electricity and heat. Microreactors could readily integrate with solar, wind, hydroelectric, and other zero-carbon sources as part of a broader clean energy strategy in Alaska.

Smaller reactors also enable incremental addition of energy capacity that can more efficiently meet communities' increasing energy needs over time. Their small size allows them to be manufactured in factories, simplifies their transportation to remote sites, and reduces the time needed on-site for construction and installation as compared with conventional nuclear energy.

Microreactors' smaller size and emphasis on inherent safety reduce the burden on surrounding communities and justify the simplification of siting requirements. Microreactors are subject to review by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and will meet or outperform the safety standards for nuclear energy in the United States. Senate Bill 177 makes siting of microreactors that can bring significant local benefits more efficient, while ensuring that these reactors will be subject to robust safety reviews and regulatory oversight.

A variety of microreactors are currently under development by companies across the United States and will be ready for commercial deployment this decade. Removing barriers to these technologies through Senate Bill 177 will signal to the world that Alaska is ready to lead on advanced nuclear energy innovation and make it possible for Alaskans to explore microreactors' economic and environmental benefits.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony; please consider the Nuclear Innovation Alliance a resource as you continue to evaluate advanced reactors in Alaska.