

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Senate Community & Regional Affairs Committee

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SB 194 Advanced Nuclear Reactors Sponsor Statement

Advanced nuclear reactors are small enough to transport easily, run for 10 or more years without needing to be refueled, and can power rural Alaskan villages, mining operations, military installments, or provide backup electricity to existing power grids and do it reliably, safely, and significantly cheaper than current energy rates in Alaska.

SB194 is the product of a collaboration with Alaska's senior member of the US Senate, Senator Lisa Murkowski. It would enable Alaska to benefit from Senator Murkowski's efforts at the national level to advance opportunities in nuclear energy. Working closely with both industry representatives and stakeholders, advanced nuclear reactors could revolutionize the power grid in Alaska. SB 194 would diminish some of the risk companies are up against by signaling to the industry that opportunity exists for this technology to come online in Alaska.

This bill has two parts: it defines what an advanced nuclear reactor is and eliminates the potentially burdensome legislative process for each potential reactor site.

The first part of SB194 updates Alaska Statutes to define "Advanced Nuclear Reactors". This definition is an industry standard and mirrors proposed federal legislation.

Secondly, current Alaska Statutes require that the construction of any nuclear fuel production facility, utilization facility, reprocessing facility, or nuclear waste disposal facility in the state must first be permitted through the Department of Environment Conservation and have the land designated by law through the legislative process. Also, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has oversight over the entire nation's nuclear facilities, which includes a rigorous permitting process prior to any state issued permits. SB194 removes the requirement of passing a state law for each potential advanced nuclear reactor site. The bill leaves intact local oversight during the permitting process.

SB 194 only applies to advanced nuclear reactors. Advanced reactors use state of the art safety mechanisms, have no moving parts, and will never melt down. They utilize inherent physics for safety and they operate at atmospheric pressure.

Clean, safe, and reliable power is needed to bring rural Alaska out of energy poverty. With this bill, investments can be made to ensure that advanced nuclear reactors have a market here in Alaska once they become available.

Please join me in support of SB 194.

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