

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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## Sponsor Statement Nuclear Energy HB 191

The State of Alaska is unmatched in its size and diversity. From the rain forest of SE to the barren tundra in the north, from the boreal forest of the Interior to the windswept Aleutian Islands Alaska's geology is extremely diverse.

The potential for energy projects is just as diverse. Some areas of the State have the potential for Hydroelectric Facilities, other areas have an abundance of gas and/or crude oil, there are areas where Geothermal looks promising, some places where there is wind potential and the possibilities abound.

The important thing is that each community or region has an opportunity to make an informed decision about the alternative that is right for their constituents. Policies that either restrict the options or entice communities into plans that are not financially sustainable do not lead to a stable, sustainable State energy policy.

HB 191 removes the restrictions on the use of Nuclear power. It does not advocate nuclear above other energy sources. It simply levels the playing field so that a community or region may consider this source of power along with other sources. This bill also expands the definition of alternate energy as it applies to the energy loan fund to permit selection of the technology that best applies to each individual situation.

It is imperative that the States energy policy be as diverse as the State. While there are some that advocate a restricted portfolio of energy sources, history shows that this plan of action leads to more volatility and eventually to shortages. Passing this legislation, Alaska is insuring that there are numerous energy solutions.