

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Co-Chair

Senate Resources Committee

Member

Senate Judiciary Committee

SENATOR LESIL MCGUIRE

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SPONSOR STATEMENT – SB 243

"An Act removing the royalty obligation for geothermal resources."

Electric power generated from geothermal sources is a clean, sustainable and environmentally friendly alternative to fossil fuels. It can play a major part in meeting the future energy needs of the railbelt and other regions.

The problem for any company seeking to build a commercial grade geothermal plant in Alaska is high capital costs that run 25-50 percent higher than the Lower-48. Operational costs could run 100 percent higher than the rest of the country.

Senate Bill 243 assists companies in developing geothermal resources discovered in commercial quantities on state land by lifting the 10 to 15 percent royalty payment obligation currently in state statute.

SB 243 is a common sense effort to make geothermal power projects economically viable and produce more affordable and reliable electric power for homes and businesses.

Geothermal electrical generation has been used for decades all over the world and creates "green" jobs. Alaska can now join other states and nations using geothermal sources to create a safe and secure source of electricity.

I urge all my colleagues to support SB 243 and move our state towards a secure energy future.