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February 16, 2022

Senator Shelley Hughes  
Chairman, Senate Community & Regional Affairs Committee  
State Capitol Room 30  
Juneau, AK 99801

### **Support for Senate Bill 177: Microreactors**

Dear Senator Hughes:

Alaska Power Association (APA) supports Senate Bill 177, and we urge its passage this year so electric utilities considering Micro Modular Reactors (MMRs) can move forward with their projects confidently knowing a portion of the permitting process has been streamlined.

APA is the statewide trade association for electric utilities in Alaska. Our members provide power for more than a half-million Alaskans from Utqiagvik to Unalaska, through the Interior and Southcentral, and down the Inside Passage.

Our electric utility members are constantly innovating and integrating new technologies that support their mission of providing safe, reliable, and affordable power. MMRs are a viable source of power that have the potential to lower the cost of energy for Alaskans, decrease dependency on diesel, better position our state for economic development opportunities, and raise Alaska's profile as a hub of energy innovation and energy independence.

It is important to point out that electric utilities seeking to permit MMRs will still have to satisfy state and federal permitting requirements before the projects can be constructed. SB 177 helps to streamline the process by exempting MMRs under 50MWe from legislative siting authority and from numerous required ongoing studies that could hamper development.

Alaska's electric utilities provide power amid harsh conditions, vast distances, and a lack of interconnection to Lower 48 regional grids. By passing SB 177, the legislature will help our state's electric utilities more easily access a viable option for providing reliable and affordable power and light in the Last Frontier.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Crystal Enkvist  
Executive Director