ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
SENATE RESOURCES STANDING COMMITTEE
April 11, 2022
3:38 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Joshua Revak, Chair
Senator Peter Micciche, Vice Chair
Senator Gary Stevens
Senator Jesse Kiehl
Senator Scott Kawasaki

MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Click Bishop
Senator Natasha von Imhof

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

SENATE BILL NO. 177
"An Act relating to microreactors."

- HEARD & HELD

CONFIRMATION HEARING(S)

Board of Fisheries
Thomas Carpenter- Cordova
David Weisz - Wasilla
Floyd "Mike" Heimbuch

- CONFIRMATIONS ADVANCED

Board of Game
Allen "Al" Barrette - Fairbanks
Beatrice "Ruth" Cusack - Chugiak

- CONFIRMATIONS ADVANCED

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: SB 177
SHORT TITLE: MICROREACTORS
SPONSOR(s): RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

02/01/22	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/01/22	(S)	CRA, RES
02/15/22	(S)	CRA AT 3:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
02/15/22	(S)	Heard & Held
02/15/22	(S)	MINUTE(CRA)
02/17/22	(S)	CRA AT 3:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
02/17/22	(S)	Heard & Held
02/17/22	(S)	MINUTE(CRA)
03/08/22	(S)	CRA AT 3:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
03/08/22	(S)	Moved SB 177 Out of Committee
03/08/22	(S)	MINUTE(CRA)
03/09/22	(S)	CRA RPT 1DP 3NR
03/09/22	(S)	DP: HUGHES
03/09/22	(S)	NR: GRAY-JACKSON, MYERS, WILSON
03/21/22	(S)	RES AT 3:30 PM BUTROVICH 205
03/21/22	(S)	Heard & Held
03/21/22	(S)	MINUTE(RES)
04/06/22	(S)	RES AT 3:30 PM BUTROVICH 205
04/06/22	(S)	<Bill Hearing Rescheduled to 4/8/22>
04/08/22	(S)	RES AT 3:30 PM BUTROVICH 205
04/08/22	(S)	<Bill Hearing Canceled>
04/11/22	(S)	RES AT 3:30 PM BUTROVICH 205

WITNESS REGISTER

MARK NUTT, PE, PhD; Nuclear Energy Sector Manager
Nuclear Energy Market Sector
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL)
Richland, Washington
POSITION STATEMENT: Presented a PowerPoint on advanced microreactor safety during the hearing on SB 177.

GWEN HOLDMANN, Director
Alaska Center for Energy and Power
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Fairbanks, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Answered questions during the discussion of SB 177.

THOMAS CARPENTER, Appointee
Board of Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G)
Cordova, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as appointee to the Board of Fisheries.

SHAWNA WILLIAMS, representing self

Wasilla, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of the appointment of Thomas Carpenter to the Board of Fisheries.

CHARLES DARRICK, President
Chitina Dipnetters Association
Fairbanks, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to appointing Thomas Carpenter to the Board of Fisheries.

VIRGIL UMPHENOUR, representing self
North Pole, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Testified with concerns about the impacts of aquaculture on Yukon River fisheries to illustrate his opposition to appointing Thomas Carpenter to the Board of Fisheries.

KAREN GILLIS, Executive Director
Bering Sea Fisherman's Association
Anchorage, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to appointing Thomas Carpenter to the Board of Fisheries.

PAUL SHADURA II, representing self
Kasilof, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of appointing Thomas Carpenter to the Board of Fisheries.

TRACY WELCH, Executive Director
United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA)
Petersburg, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of appointing Thomas Carpenter to the Board of Fisheries.

JERRY MCCUNE, President
Cordova District Fishermen United
Cordova, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of appointing Thomas Carpenter to the Board of Fisheries.

DAVID WEISZ, Appointee
Board of Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G)
Wasilla, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as appointee to the Board of Fisheries.

FLOYD "MIKE" HEIMBUCH, Appointee
Board of Fisheries
Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G)
Homer, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as appointee to the Board of Fisheries.

AL BARRETTE, Appointee
Board of Game
Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G)
Fairbanks, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Testified for reappointment to the Board of Game.

BEATRICE "RUTH" CUSACK, Appointee
Board of Game
Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G)
Chugiak, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as appointee to the Board of Game.

MARK RICHARDS, Executive Director
Resident Hunters of Alaska (RHAK)
Fairbanks, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to appointing Beatrice "Ruth" Cusack to the Board of Game because, if confirmed, the board composition would predominately consist of guides.

CHARLES DARRICK, representing self
Fairbanks, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of reappointing Al Barrette to the Board of Game.

VIRGIL UMPHENOUR, representing self
Fairbanks, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of appointing David Weisz to the Board of Fisheries and Al Barrette and Beatrice "Ruth" Cusack's appointment to the Board of Game.

PAUL SHADURA II, representing self
Kasilof, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of appointing Mike Heimbuch to the Board of Fisheries and was neutral on the appointment of David Weisz because of his lack of experience.

SHANNON MARTIN, Executive Director
Kenai River Sportfishing Association (KRSA)

Soldotna, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of appointing David Weisz to the Board of Fisheries.

JERRY MCCUNE, Lobbyist; Chair
Board of Directors
Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU)
Cordova, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of appointing Floyd "Mike" Heimbuch to the Board of Fisheries.

TRACY WELCH, Lobbyist; Executive Director
United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA)
Petersburg, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of appointing Floyd "Mike" Heimbuch to the Board of Fisheries.

ACTION NARRATIVE

3:38:45 PM
CHAIR JOSHUA REVAK called the Senate Resources Standing Committee meeting to order at 3:38 p.m. Present at the call to order were Senators Micciche, Kiehl, Stevens, Kawasaki, and Chair Revak.

SB 177-MICROREACTORS

3:40:10 PM
CHAIR REVAK announced the consideration of SENATE BILL NO. 177 "An Act relating to microreactors."

3:41:11 PM
MARK NUTT, PE, PhD; Nuclear Energy Sector Manager, Nuclear Energy Market Sector, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), Richland, Washington, began a PowerPoint on the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory Briefing: Advanced Microreactor Safety. He reviewed slide 2, PNNL is DOE's Most Diverse National Laboratory. He pointed out that the PNNL sector manager works with research scientists and engineers on nuclear energy, from the front end to the back end of reactor safety. He said he is a nuclear engineer and previously worked in one of Fluor Corporation's US nuclear plants. PNNL has $1.24 billion in funding, with 5,300 staff working on national security and environmental restoration.

3:43:08 PM

DR. NUTT paraphrased slide 3, Bottom Line Up Front: Nuclear Power is Safe.

> The potential hazard of nuclear's high energy density has always been known and has always been factored into the design of nuclear power plants.
>
> The nuclear energy industry is one of the most heavily regulated commercial enterprises. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has principal responsibility for government oversight. The NRC's mission is to protect public health and safety by ensuring that plants comply with the terms of their licenses as well as all the technical and administrative requirements imposed by the agency.

- The NRC assigns at least two NRC resident inspectors to every US nuclear energy plant, where the inspectors conduct more than 2,000 hours of baseline inspections each year.

- The industry also conducts peer reviews of plant operation through the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO). An INPO team and industry peers conduct on-site, two-week inspections at each plant once every two years.

- Major studies all conclude that nuclear is an exceptionally safe way to produce electricity on an industrial scale. Nuclear has the lowest number of direct fatalities of any major energy source per kWh of energy produced—over 100 times less than hydro and liquefied natural gas (OECD 2010).

3:44:56 PM
SENATOR STEVENS asked why the nuclear plants were targeted in Ukraine but would not be targets in the United States.

DR. NUTT answered that the military aspect of microreactors was not his area of expertise. He said he would not speculate on what was happening in the war between Russia and Ukraine. He said he was familiar with the nuclear reactor, which was very similar in design to the pressurized water reactors in the US. He hoped no one would ever shoot at US nuclear reactors.

SENATOR STEVENS related his understanding that the current nuclear reactors are a different generation. He asked if the new plants were remarkably safer than the previous ones.

DR. NUTT agreed they are safer, noting he would discuss it later on in the presentation.

3:47:19 PM
SENATOR KAWASAKI asked about the two NRC resident inspectors assigned to US nuclear energy plants and 2,000 hours of baseline inspections each year. The Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) onsite inspections are listed in bullet points 2 and 3. He asked if the NCR and INPO oversight would happen with the nuclear microreactors.

DR. NUTT answered that would be determined via the licensing process. The new microreactors have passive and inherent safety features, which may have reduced staff, but the regulator would vet all of the terms.

SENATOR KAWASAKI acknowledged that slide 4 would cover microreactors. He asked him to address the inspections for those compared to the nuclear power plants listed on slide 3.

3:49:00 PM
SENATOR MICCICHE referred to the last bullet point which compared nuclear power to hydro and liquefied natural gas fatalities per kilowatt of energy. He noted a Cleveland incident killed 130 in 1944 when a stainless nickel container leaked. He wondered if the bullet point captured the statistics for each industry.

DR. NUTT answered that there have been no direct fatalities operating nuclear in the United States.

SENATOR MICCICHE noted that there had been occasional fatalities in the natural gas industry.

3:50:31 PM
DR. NUTT reviewed slide 4, What microreactor Design Sizes are being considered? The slide included a graph that showed small nuclear reactors under development in the US.

> Nuclear microreactors are very small reactors usually generating less than 50 megawatts electric (MWe). They are seen as an alternative to small modular (50-300

MWe) or conventional reactors (often around 1,000 MWe).

By comparison, microreactors can be produced more quickly, and within weeks, transported and deployed to locations such as isolated military bases or communities affected by natural disasters. They are designed to provide resilient, non-carbon emitting, and independent power in those environments.

DR. NUTT reviewed the evolution of nuclear reactors over time, noting they originally started small, then became substantial units. The industry has not had the most outstanding record in deploying reactors, but it has worked to reduce plant size and assemble the reactors at the power station. The smaller reactors, typically under 50 megawatts (MWe), can serve many different markets.

3:53:27 PM
MR. NUTT said the goal was to reduce civil construction required to house the reactor, using smaller modular nuclear reactors, which has led to microreactors. This provides portability, so the microreactor can more easily be deployed or removed when it is no longer needed.

3:54:36 PM
DR. NUTT reviewed slides 5 and 6, What is an "Advanced Nuclear Reactor"?

According to 42 USC § 16271(b)(1) the term "advanced nuclear reactor" means (A) a nuclear fission reactor, including a prototype plant (as defined in sections 50.2 and 52.1 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations)), with significant improvements compared to reactors operating on December 27, 2020 , including improvements such as:

(i)additional inherent safety features
(ii) lower waste yields
(iii) improved fuel and material performance
(iv) increased tolerance to loss of fuel cooling
(v) enhanced reliability or improved resilience
(vi) increased proliferation resistance
(vii) increased thermal efficiency
(viii) reduced consumption of cooling water and other environmental impacts

(ix) the ability to integrate into electric applications and nonelectric applications
(x) modular sizes to allow for deployment that corresponds with the demand for electricity or process heat
(xi) operational flexibility to respond to changes in demand for electricity or process heat and to complement integration with intermittent renewable energy or energy storage.

DR. NUTT said the advanced nuclear reactor takes the existing experience of safe operation of the machines to deploy newer, safer, more efficient and economic nuclear reactors in the future.

3:56:06 PM
DR. NUTT reviewed slide 7, What are "Passively Safe" and "Inherent Safety" Designs?

Passive nuclear safety is a safety feature of a nuclear reactor that does not require operator actions or electronic feedback in order to shut down safely in the event of a particular type of emergency (usually overheating resulting from a loss of coolant or loss of coolant flow).

Inherent nuclear safety systems use certain materials and their properties to provide additional layers of protection.

"Certain SMR designs are small enough that natural convection cooling should be sufficient to maintain the core at a safe temperature in the event of a serious accident like a station blackout." - Union of Concerned Scientists

DR. NUTT referred to a link on the slide to the Idaho National Lab passive safety video that members could view at their convenience.

3:57:11 PM
DR. NUTT reviewed slide 8, What is an Inherent Safety Feature?

TRISO stands for TRi-structural ISOtropic particle fuel.

Each TRISO particle is made up of a uranium, carbon and oxygen fuel kernel. The kernel is encapsulated by three layers of carbon- and ceramic-based materials that prevent the release of radioactive fission products.

The particles are incredibly small (about the size of a poppy seed) and very robust.

They can be fabricated into cylindrical pellets or billiard ballsized spheres called "pebbles" for use in either high temperature gas or molten salt-cooled reactors.

TRISO fuels are structurally more resistant to neutron irradiation, corrosion, oxidation and high temperatures (the factors that most impact fuel performance) than traditional reactor fuels.

Each particle acts as its own containment system due to its triple-coated layers. This allows them to retain fission products under all reactor conditions.

TRISO particles can withstand extreme temperatures that are well beyond the threshold of current nuclear fuels.

DR. NUTT added that other fuel designs with the same inherent safety features were being considered for advanced nuclear reactors.

3:58:57 PM
DR. NUTT reviewed slide 9, How are "Passive" Systems Different from "active" systems for heat removal, which displayed a Pressurized Water Reactor (PWR) diagram.

Active Systems in typical large light water reactors require electrical power produced by the plant, provide from the offsite grid, or from emergency generators to operate to cool the plant.

DR. NUTT explained that if an event occurred at a reactor, the control rods would drop into the core, and the nuclear chain reaction would dissipate. The heat would still come off the radioactive decay of the fuel, which would need maintained cooling. He noted that the existing plants would require active pumping, safety injection systems, and diesel generators to

provide offsite power, but the plant would require active cooling.

3:59:43 PM
DR. NUTT reviewed slide 10, What is Passive Heat Removal Through Convection? [This slide depicted a reactor vessel showing heat removal by air circulation; and a photo of the Westinghouse eVinci reactor design.]

> Convection is the movement caused within a fluid by the tendency of hotter and therefore less dense material to rise, and colder, denser material to sink under the influence of gravity, which consequently results in transfer of heat. Passive systems do not require electrical power produced by the plant, provided from the offsite grid, or from emergency generators to operate.
>
> The Westinghouse eVinci micro reactor is a next-generation, small battery for decentralised generation markets and micro grids such as remote communities, remote industrial mines and critical infrastructure. The reactor has heat pipes that remove heat from the core. The heat pipes enable passive core heat extraction.

DR. NUTT explained that heat removal by air circulation could keep the plant cool and protect the fuel. Combined with the inherent safety, it provides a better safety margin than the reactors deployed today.

4:00:42 PM
DR. NUTT reviewed slide 11, What Design Features Does NRC Evaluate in their Safety Review?

> NUREG – 0800: Standard Review Plan for the Review of Safety Analysis Reports for Nuclear Power Plants, listing Chapter 1 – 19.

DR. NUTT explained that this slide shows what the NUREG provides with its safety review. He stated that the applicant must demonstrate how they will meet all of the criteria within the guidelines. He anticipated that this would be the criteria used in the future.

4:01:33 PM

DR. NUTT reviewed slide 12, What are Staffing Considerations for Microreactors?

What technical skills are required to operate a microreactor and how feasible is it that skilled technicians will be found to work at remote microreactor locations?

- The NRC licenses all individuals who either operate or supervise the operation of the controls of a commercially owned nuclear power reactor or a test/research (i.e., non-power) reactor under 10 CFR Part 55.

- Operators are required to pass a written examination that contains a representative selection of questions on the knowledge, skills, andb abilities needed to perform licensed operator duties.

- In general, a smaller plant having inherent and passive safety features with some functions being automated would likely result in a smaller work force as compared to large LWRs.

- The NRC licensing process would end up defining what on-site work force would be required to ensure safety and security

4:02:49 PM
DR. NUTT reviewed slides 13 and 14, How Will Spent Nuclear Fuel be managed?

Multiple agencies and organizations have responsibility for managing spent nuclear fuel:

- The Nuclear Waste Policy Act (the Act or the NWPA) of 1982, established a comprehensive federal policy to store and dispose of the nation's SNF and HLW. The NWPA and its amendments directed the Department to develop a system to accept, transport, store, and permanently dispose of SNF and HLW from commercial utilities. The DOE manages and disposes of spent fuel it accepts under the Standard Contract.
- The NRC regulates interim storage, permanent disposal, and certifies SNF transportation casks.

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets radiation protection standards• The Utility/Operator sites, designs, and submits license applications including an environmental report in accordance with requirements established by the U.S Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)
- The NRC prepares an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed reactor and conducts a review of the license application including any required hearings
- The Utility/Operator constructs and operates reactors in accordance with its NRC license- Responsible for the management and storage of all spent fuel until accepted by DOE in accordance with the standard contract

4:04:13 PM
DR. NUTT acknowledged that the US does not have a national repository for spent fuel.

The NRC has an established regulatory framework for spent fuel storage at 10 CFR 72 and for transportation at 10 CFR 71.

Pending approval of a national repository, there are two general options for managing spent fuel:

1. For the current reactor fleet, Spent Nuclear Fuel is stored in an onsite Independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) under 10 CFR 72 pending U.S. policy decisions on ultimate disposition.

2. For advanced microreactors, the reactor could be returned to the vendor for decommissioning or refueling. This will require a new NRC package approval as there are no currently approved packages for microreactors with SNF.

An ISFSI is an NRC licensed complex designed and constructed for the interim storage of spent nuclear fuel; solid, reactor related, greater than Class C waste; and other associated radioactive materials.

Consent-Based Siting
DOE is considering a national Consolidated Interim Storage Facility for spent nuclear fuel that would be

sited using a consent-based siting approach in which communities could volunteer to host the facility

4:05:38 PM
DR. NUTT reviewed slide 15, How are Environmental Impacts Different for Microreactors? The slide consisted of an image listing broad environmental factors that are considered by NRA during the NEPA reviews.

DR. NUTT said some considerations would be different due to the size of the microreactors, including the lower water usage and less transportation. The environmental impacts are also expected to be smaller. He pointed out that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is developing a generic EIS for advanced reactors that will include microreactors. He anticipated a draft would be available later this summer.

4:06:40 PM
DR. NUTT reviewed slide 16, What are Some of the Unique Challenges in the Arctic? The slide showed a photograph of permafrost layers and a diagram that showed the ten codes for evaluating potential doses from Nuclear Power Plants during licensing and siting. These are being evaluated for use in arctic environments.

NRC conducts geotechnical evaluations for foundation supports for Nuclear Power Plants. These evaluations will have to consider locating plants in permafrost and the potential for permafrost to change over time.

DR. NUTT added that a hazard assessment would be required to determine any external hazards the reactor could be exposed to and ensure they are appropriately mitigated. The NRC evaluates various codes, including radiation exposure potential from nuclear power plants.

4:07:47 PM
SENATOR KAWASAKI related his understanding that one selling point of microreactors is reduced staffing. He expressed concern about the 5 Mwe microreactor proposed at Eielson Air Force Base. He asked what else NRC must consider before licensing, including staffing levels and the number of hours for baseline inspections.

DR. NUTT answered that the applicant would submit the plant operational plan as part of NRC's licensing requirements, including staffing requirements necessary for safety and

security. He noted that if an inspection happened and insufficient staff was present, inspectors could shut down the microreactor.

SENATOR KAWASAKI asked whether the site must be reviewed and approved by NRC before siting would be approved and permitted.

DR. NUTT answered yes. He stated that the natural hazards and geophysical stability must be reviewed prior to permitting.

4:10:20 PM
SENATOR MICCICHE turned to the exclusion zones based on the quantity of energy in a facility. He asked whether it was safe to say that if two facilities were designed similarly, but one was a one gigawatt facility and the other a 50 megawatt facility, one would have a significantly lower potential for the quantity of fuel for the facility.

DR. NUTT answered yes, but the source term would depend on the fuel and release mechanisms. He offered his view that a 50-megawatt facility with extremely robust fuel and a 10-megawatt facility, perhaps not as robust, could wash out. He indicated that it would depend on the accidents, the accident sequences, the source terms, and the potential amount of material that could be released and where it would go. He indicated that a larger nuclear reactor with a more extensive inventory could typically have a larger source.

4:11:57 PM
SENATOR MICCICHE related his understanding that there may not be any exclusion zones needed for the self-contained smaller microreactor. He wondered if that meant that the seismology regarding a tsunami is less critical with the smaller microreactors, and if they are truly self-contained.

DR. NUTT answered that it would depend on the site, noting that the microreactor would be sited to avoid flood and tsunami zones, such that the geotechnical hazards and seismicity would not cause the unit undue harm. It must be able to respond to an earthquake and safely shut down, and with passive heat removal remain safe. He pointed out that hazardous fission products are retained in the TRISO fuels. It could be possible that the safety analysis, including analyzing the event sequences, hazards, and consequences as part of the safety analysis, might show that there was no credible way that the nuclear reactor could get damaged. If so, they may be able to back off of the exclusion zone.

4:13:39 PM
SENATOR KIEHL asked about the implications of disposal once the project is completed. He recalled Dr. Nutt mentioned that no packaging was approved for transporting the small nuclear reactors when their work was completed. He asked if he envisioned that the small microreactors would be hypothetically left to cool forever on site or if they would end up in the big trench on the Hanford Reach with a couple of hundred former nuclear submarines.

4:14:15 PM
DR. NUTT answered that the Hanford Reach contains the reactor compartments, but the fuel is removed, shipped, and stored in Idaho. The nuclear reactors and cores are brought to Hanford and stored in an open trench so inspectors can examine them. Currently, all the fuel is stored at the reactor sites, pending the department deploying a consolidated storage facility or geological depository where it would be transported. He said there are certified casks to move the existing light water reactor fuel. He characterized it as proven technology. He offered his view that if the business model had the microreactor sited and ran for a period of time, if there were not a disposition pathway, storage, or disposal facility, it would sit until one became available. The regulatory commission must certify the package for pickup and packaging if the company has a business model that includes transport. It would also need to certify a plan to move a fully-fueled microreactor. Currently, the PNNL moves rated and unrated spent fuel in transportation packaging. However, PNNL has never moved a reactor. The Department of Defense (DoD) understands its responsibility. DoD has restarted the process of assigning a new storage facility. Other projects are underway to consider transporting nuclear reactors, so work is being accomplished to develop those capabilities to move nuclear reactors.

4:16:54 PM
SENATOR KIEHL related his understanding that TRISO has been around since the 1960s. He asked why it took so long and if it was a realistic goal.

MR. NUTT answered that TRISO-fuel reactors and others, such as metallic-fueled, micro-fast nuclear reactors, have been around a while. The US has operated gas-cooled carbide-fueled reactors. However, the US chose the water-cooled nuclear reactors primarily because the US Navy selected that approach. Meanwhile, the Department of Energy and the national lab continue

developing advanced nuclear reactor concepts. He highlighted the benefits: they are efficient, operate at lower temperatures than gas reactors, can be used for process heat, and have inherent passive safety benefits. As the technology developed and the deployment of nuclear reactors improved, many private-sector companies wanted to take different routes, considering other coolant technologies, especially when using microreactors. Thus, the technological advancements meant that nuclear reactors could be deployed economically, allowing them to compete in the US energy markets.

4:20:28 PM
SENATOR KAWASAKI stated that the DoD has been discussing the potential for using an advanced nuclear reactor at Eielson Air Force Base (Eielson AFB). He asked whether NRC would have the authority and jurisdiction for siting, permitting, and other requirements Dr. Nutt outlined earlier.

DR. NUTT offered his belief that if a commercial company deployed the microreactor to provide power services to Eielson AFB, it would have to be licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

4:22:06 PM
At ease

4:22:44 PM
CHAIR REVAK reconvened the meeting.

4:22:59 PM
GWEN HOLDMANN, Director, Alaska Center for Energy and Power, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, Alaska, answered that the nuclear project at Eielson AFB was envisioned as a privately owned and operated commercial project on USAF property. She said that because the independent power producer would sell the output from the reactor via a purchase agreement, it would fall under NRC.

4:23:46 PM
SENATOR KAWASAKI commented that DOE testified that NRC would require staffing considerations and other restrictions before permitting or siting, including spent-fuel management and the number of annual inspections and hours for them. He asked whether she was saying that the decision for a microreactor at Eielson AFB hasn't been made yet.

MS. HOLDMANN stated that the project was intended at Eielson AFB, pending EIS approval.

4:24:50 PM
CHAIR REVAK advised Ms. Holdmann that the committee was experiencing audio issues and missed most of what she had said.

MS. HOLDMANN answered that any project at Eielson AFB would need to comply with state requirements and meet NRC requirements.

SENATOR KAWASAKI clarified that this whole presentation is about an NRC-regulated facility. He wondered what would happen if NRC determined later that Eielson AFB was not the right location due to staffing considerations, natural features, or spent-fuel management.

MS. HOLDMANN agreed that it is quite possible that if insurmountable barriers arise, NRC could select a USAF base at another location.

4:26:53 PM
SENATOR MICCICHE stated that SB 177 relates to an "advanced nuclear reactor" as defined in 42 U.S.C. 16271. He highlighted that people thought of the Three Mile Island accident and Chernobyl stories when this bill was first brought up. He asked what was different about the definition of "advanced nuclear reactor" [referenced on page 1, line 13 of SB 177.]

DR. NUTT answered that it related to the requirement for significant improvements since December 27, 2020. He explained that the new advanced nuclear reactors must show improvements over large light-water reactors like the one on Three Mile Island, indicated by the 11 bullets on [slide 5]. He noted that it was not just an incremental step up for today's nuclear reactors because these reactors are different. These advanced nuclear reactors are fourth-generation reactors with significant improvements.

4:29:05 PM
SENATOR MICCICHE related that one of his constituents wondered about the enrichment of microreactor fuel. He asked whether the fuel was significantly more enriched and how that would affect the overall risk.

MR. NUTT answered that these nuclear reactors would be limited to using five-percent uranium 235 enrichment and they would run around 20 percent, allowing for increased material loading in

the reactor core, resulting in using smaller reactors that can run longer. He pointed out that even if using higher-enriched uranium, these reactors would still use passive nuclear safety measures with inherent nuclear safety systems. He offered his belief that although the uranium fuel enrichment would be higher, it was not significantly higher, so it wouldn't make too much difference. He explained that fuel enrichment was necessary to operate the nuclear reactor as envisioned.

4:31:03 PM
CHAIR REVAK held SB 177 in committee.

CONFIRMATION HEARING(S)
Board of Fisheries
Board of Game

4:31:23 PM
CHAIR REVAK announced the consideration of governor's appointees to the Board of Fisheries and Board of Game.

4:31:46 PM
THOMAS CARPENTER, Appointee, Board of Fisheries, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Cordova, Alaska, provided his background, including that he had grown up in Illinois and was stationed in Cordova while serving in the US Coast Guard. He said he was impressed by the landscape and the opportunities the natural resources provided to residents. He stated he has lived in Cordova for 30 years, enjoying subsistence fishing on the Copper River each year, sportfishing for salmon and cutthroat trout, and hunting moose and deer in the Prince William Sound area.

MR. CARPENTER stated that he crewed on a seine boat, fishing for salmon and herring in Prince William Sound, and working on a gillnet boat in the Copper River for a few summers. He bought his first permit and boat in 1999. During that time, he attended Board of Fisheries advisory committee meetings. He served as the co-chair of the Copper River/Prince William Sound Advisory Committee from 2000 until 2019 and was awarded the ADF&G Excellence in Service Award in 2020. He indicated that he participated in a commercial gillnet fishery in Area E in the Copper River/Prince William Sound (PWS) Advisory Committee from 1995 to 2014. He also operated a sporting goods store focused on sport fishing and hunting gear. He served as the regional fleet manager for Copper River Seafoods from 2015 to 2019. He served on the Copper River/Prince William Sound Salmon Harvest Task Force and was the chair in 2019. He served on the Southcentral

Regional Advisory Committee from 2003 to 2018, primarily focusing on subsistence issues. He served as co-chair of the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Board and currently serves as chair of the Prince William Sound Regional Planning Team for the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (PWSAC).

4:34:53 PM
MR. CARPENTER stated that he would like to serve on the Board of Fisheries to give back to Alaska, and if confirmed, he would seek common ground for user groups on issues before the board, analyzing the most current science-based information to make the most informed decisions possible. Alaska has a world-class management system with experienced managers and scientists that solicit public input. He offered his view that Alaska leads the world in sustainable fisheries management, which can continue for many generations.

4:36:05 PM
SENATOR STEVENS thanked him for applying to serve on the Board of Fisheries. He commended the knowledge and experience he would bring to the board. He surmised Mr. Carpenter knew what serving on the board entails.

MR. CARPENTER answered yes. He acknowledged that sometimes people are unhappy with the Board of Fisheries' decisions, but members must base their decisions on the best available information.

4:37:03 PM
SENATOR MICCICHE stated that many fisheries are failing, that some attribute to unsuccessful management. He asked how he would be different and be able to achieve independent decision-making within an atmosphere of differing opinions.

MR. CARPENTER agreed that various groups attend board meetings, striving to influence the board, perhaps more than the average person. However, in his experience serving on the advisory committee, he found that the process allowed people to participate in meaningful ways. Alaska is the only state that allows the public to participate at several junctures, including at the advisory board level and when proposals come before the board. He pledged to view comments from the general public and the organizations through the same lens. He stated that he would use factual and scientific information to make informed decisions.

4:39:54 PM

SENATOR KAWASAKI noted that he serves on the Board of Directors for the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation (PWSAC) and on several advisory committees. He asked whether he would be required to resign from those positions if he is confirmed.

MR. CARPENTER responded that transparency was important to him. He stated that he had already informed the PWSAC's Board of Directors that he would resign immediately if confirmed. He said he would also inform the regional planning team he would resign if confirmed to the Board of Fisheries to avoid any potential conflict of interest.

4:41:46 PM
CHAIR REVAK opened public testimony on the confirmation hearing for Thomas Carpenter, appointee to the Board of Fisheries.

4:42:22 PM
SHAWNA WILLIAMS, representing self, Wasilla, Alaska, spoke in support of Thomas Carpenter's appointment to the Board of Fisheries. She said she served with Mr. Carpenter on the Prince William Sound (PWS) Aquaculture board, witnessing his hard work and dedication to fisheries. She offered her view that he has always balanced the corporation's best interests with those of every user group. She indicated that he had gained a breadth of knowledge from his military service, participating in commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries, and his time at Copper River Seafoods. She characterized him as a well-rounded candidate who would make fair and equitable decisions regarding fisheries for all user groups in the state.

4:43:38 PM
CHARLES DARRICK, President, Chitina Dipnetters Association, Fairbanks, Alaska, spoke in opposition to confirming Thomas Carpenter to serve on the Board of Fisheries. He expressed concern that the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation's viewpoint was that more hatchery fish is better. He offered his view that the ever-increasing release of millions of Prince William Sound hatchery pink salmon has resulted in pink salmon infiltrating many Southcentral Alaska salmon streams, which has the potential to dilute the genetics of the wild stocks in those streams. The hatchery pinks released into the ocean compete with Alaska's wild stocks, resulting in much smaller wild stock returns and much smaller fish.

4:44:43 PM
MR. DARRICK expressed concern that Mr. Carpenter's role as chair of the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation will result

in him promoting the increase and release of hatchery fish, and Alaska's wild stocks will suffer.

4:45:12 PM
VIRGIL UMPHENOUR, representing self, North Pole, Alaska, stated that he served three terms on the Board of Fisheries. He related that he had just returned from a Yukon River Panel meeting. He has served since 1988 on the Yukon River Panel, which was formed by Canada and the US as part of the Pacific Salmon Treaty. He indicated that the sustainability of Yukon River fisheries is problematic. He highlighted run statistics to illustrate the declining runs, including a decline in the average summer chum salmon run from 2 million to 152,000 and the fall run from 1 million to 102,000. The king salmon escapement in the Yukon River tributaries, the Chena and Salcha Rivers, was only 22 percent despite closures to all fishing, including subsistence. He offered his belief that this is the result of overfishing. Koernig Hatchery, one of the biggest producers of pink salmon, dumps 700 - 800 million pink salmon and over 200 million chum salmon into Bristol Bay each year. The North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC), an international commission, reported that 5.5 billion hatchery salmon dumped into the North Pacific each year is causing fish to starve. The ADF&G scientists said that the weights of salmon were the smallest per age ever measured.

4:47:59 PM
KAREN GILLIS, Executive Director, Bering Sea Fisherman's Association, Anchorage, Alaska, stated that she echoed Mr. Darrick's and Mr. Umphenhour's comments opposing Mr. Carpenter's appointment to the Board of Fisheries. She noted that his expertise would not add to the board's diversity. She offered her belief that the governor does not understand the historical composition of the Board of Fisheries based on the recent appointments. She reiterated her opposition to Mr. Carpenter serving on the Board of Fisheries.

4:49:15 PM

PAUL SHADURA II, representing self, Kasilof, Alaska, referred to qualifications in AS 16.05.221, which read, in part:

> (b) ... The governor shall appoint each member on the basis of interest in public affairs, good judgment, knowledge, and ability in the field of action of the board, and with a view to providing diversity of interest and points of view in the membership. The

appointed members shall be residents of the state and shall be appointed without regard to political affiliation or geographical location of residence.

MR. SHADURA II stated that Mr. Carpenter would enhance the board process because his experience in regulatory matters, commercial fisheries experience, education, and small business operation would assist in the board's deliberations. He urged members to support Thomas Carpenter to serve on the Board of Fisheries.

4:50:47 PM
TRACY WELCH, Executive Director, United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA), Petersburg, Alaska, stated that UFA is a statewide commercial fishing trade association representing 37 commercial fishing organizations participating in fisheries throughout Alaska. UFA supports Thomas Carpenter for appointment to the Board of Fisheries because of his significant experience in fisheries throughout Alaska and his leadership roles in various committees, councils, and groups. She further stated that Mr. Carpenter possesses a wealth of knowledge and fisheries-related experience in the local and regional organizations, including his work on the Southcentral Regional Advisory Council, the federal subsistence board, and the Copper River/Prince William Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee. He was awarded the ADF&G Excellence in Service Award in 2020 for his ability to connect with diverse groups and approachability. He currently serves as the chair of the Board of Directors for the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation.

4:51:47 PM
MS. WELCH stated that Mr. Carpenter is also a longtime business owner, former commercial fisherman, and an avid sportsman. He has a history of working with various user groups, and a good reputation amongst fishery professionals around the state speaks to his qualifications to serve as a member of the Board of Fisheries. She offered UFA's support for Thomas Carpenter's appointment to the Board of Fisheries.

4:52:43 PM
JERRY MCCUNE, President, Cordova District Fishermen United, Cordova, Alaska, stated that he had known Mr. Carpenter since he moved to Cordova. He related that he has fished for 62 years. He offered his belief that Mr. Carpenter takes this appointment seriously and that he was dedicated to all fisheries, not just commercial ones. He said he is qualified and will be fair to all fishermen and gear types.

4:53:24 PM
CHAIR REVAK closed public testimony on the confirmation hearing for Thomas Carpenter, appointee to the Board of Fisheries.

4:53:52 PM
DAVID WEISZ, Appointee, Board of Fisheries, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Wasilla, Alaska, provided his background, including that he had hunted and fished throughout Alaska most of his life. He serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Three Bears Alaska, which has provided him with expertise in handling complex issues and balancing various parties' interests. He stated that he would like to serve on the board to help achieve the goal of preserving Alaska's fisheries for all stakeholders for Alaskans and future generations of Alaskans.

MR. WEISZ stated that he would bring his problem-solving abilities to the board. He indicated that he had worked with many regulatory commissions throughout his career when opening a new store location within Alaska, so he was familiar with the impact of regulations on businesses. He said he has worked to find solutions to satisfy all parties while conducting business. He highlighted that he looks forward to serving on the board.

4:55:28 PM
CHAIR REVAK stated he would take public testimony after hearing from the governor's appointees to the Board of Fisheries and Board of Game.

4:55:50 PM
FLOYD "MIKE" HEIMBUCH, Appointee, Board of Fisheries, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Homer, Alaska, provided his background, including that he has lived in Alaska for 70 years. He stated his interest in serving on the board because of his commercial fishing experience in Alaska. He said he has participated in numerous fisheries throughout Alaska, giving him a perspective of the various gear groups. He stated that the Board of Fisheries must look through three lenses: economic, biological, and political. He cautioned against revolutionizing fisheries due to problems. He highlighted that he looks forward to serving on the board.

4:57:25 PM
SENATOR MICCICHE commented that he would hold questions for Mr. Weisz and Mr. Heimbuch to ensure the committee had time to hear from all the appointees.

4:58:15 PM

CHAIR REVAK turned to Board of Game appointees, inviting appointee Al Barrette to testify.

4:58:29 PM
AL BARRETTE, Appointee, Board of Game, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Fairbanks, Alaska, stated that his family relies on Alaska's fish and game resources by participating in subsistence, sportfishing, and personal use hunting and fishing. They only take what they can use or share. He provided his background, including that he served in the US Army for ten years, and his last duty station was Fairbanks. He has owned a fur dresser business since 1992 and supplements his income by trapping. He highlighted that he does not advertise or book hunts but holds a Class-A Assistant Guide license and works under a registered guide outfitter for about ten days per year. He highlighted that his interest in serving on the Board of Game is to manage wildlife resources sustainably, not to favor commercial interests. He said he would like to continue to serve on the board to use his extensive knowledge on issues, noting that he served for 20 years on a local game management working group and has acquired a working knowledge of the federal subsistence process, laws, and priorities. In closing, he said he hoped that his grandson and Alaskan youth would be afforded the same wildlife resources that Alaskans have today.

CHAIR REVAK thanked him for his willingness to continue to serve on the board.

5:00:56 PM
BEATRICE "RUTH" CUSACK, Appointee, Board of Game, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Chugiak, Alaska, provided her background, noting that she was raised in Iowa, and her family hunted to put food on the table. Although she was not allowed to hunt as a child, she took up hunting in her 20s. She moved to Alaska in 2007, hunting species such as black bear, caribou, moose, mountain goat, Dall sheep, and black-tail deer. She said she initially accompanied her husband on a bison permit hunt and later drew a musk ox permit. She highlighted her volunteer work, including guiding black bear hunts at a black bear camp sponsored by Alaska's Healing Hearts. This national organization provides outdoor recreational opportunities for veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome (PTSD). She had also volunteered in ADFG's Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) program, teaching women about moose hunting and field dressing and helping in several children's programs. She offered her view that all generations should be able to enjoy what she enjoys now. She serves on the Safari Club International, Alaska

Chapter (SCI-Alaska) Board of Directors, as vice chair. She emphasized that she strongly believes in the SCI's mission, noting their hunter advocacy and wildlife conservation efforts. She said she earned her assistant guide license in 2020, working under a Registered Guide-Outfitter, Mike Bowden. She spends about three weeks in the spring and ten days in the fall assisting with bear hunts on the Alaska Peninsula.

MS. CUSACK stated her interest in serving on the board is to ensure that Alaska's game is healthy and resilient to ensure that all future Alaskans can enjoy hunting. She pledged to listen to all perspectives and make common sense decisions based on data and science. If she is confirmed to serve on the Board of Game, she offered her view that she might inspire other women and Alaska's youth to participate in hunts and enjoy the outdoors.

5:05:42 PM
SENATOR KIEHL thanked her for her volunteer work, especially in outdoor education. He commented that the Board of Game did not reappoint the board member who served as someone representing subsistence hunting. He asked if she could address how the board would function without a subsistence seat.

MS. CUSACK answered that she and her husband are subsistence hunters who consume everything they hunt other than brown bears. They donate 50 percent of any moose taken to the village where they hunt.

5:07:09 PM
SENATOR KIEHL stated that some constituents had expressed concern that 70 percent of the board would be big game guides or former ones. He acknowledged the goal to make decisions based on data and science, but sometimes board members must make judgment calls on questions of allocation, resident, and non-resident issues. He asked what effect the 70 percent board composition might have on the public perception.

5:08:02 PM
MS. CUSACK answered that she is a hunter and an Alaska resident. She stated that her assistant guiding is not her main focus or source of earnings, so it should not interfere with her serving on the Board of Game. She acknowledged that she is a guide because hunting is her passion.

SENATOR KIEHL asked whether there were any areas where the board would need to adjust the resident and nonresident harvest.

MS. CUSACK answered that she was unsure that she was informed enough to speak on that issue. She said she views herself as a sport hunter, not a guide.

5:09:49 PM
CHAIR REVAK commented that Ms. Cusack is being modest. He related that he knows Ruth and her husband, Louis, and has observed Ms. Cusack's tireless volunteer efforts in non-profit organizations related to wildlife conservation and management. He asked what her interest was in serving on the Board of Game.

MS. CUSACK answered that her interest in serving on the board was to ensure that Alaska's wildlife resources are healthy. She noted that people had expressed concern about the declining Dall sheep and moose populations. She would also like to inspire people to go outdoors and enjoy the state.

CHAIR REVAK thanked the appointees for their willingness to serve.

5:12:00 PM
CHAIR REVAK opened public testimony on the governor's appointees to the Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game. He noted that public testimony was previously taken for Mr. Carpenter, appointee to the Board of Fisheries.

5:12:30 PM
MARK RICHARDS, Executive Director, Resident Hunters of Alaska (RHAK), Fairbanks, Alaska, paraphrased his previously submitted written comments, which read:

> The Board of Game is a seven-member panel that determines all regional and statewide hunting regulations, to include allocations between different user groups, seasons and bag limits, and methods and means of hunting.
>
> It is imperative that the Board of Game be balanced and fairly represent all Alaskans. AS 16.05.221, the statute that governs Boards of Fisheries and Game appointments, speaks to the need to provide a balanced membership: "The governor shall appoint each member on the basis of interest in public affairs, good judgment, knowledge, and ability in the field of action of the board, and with a view to providing

diversity of interest and points of view in the membership." [my emphasis]

The current 3 appointments/reappointment to the Board of Game (James Cooney, Ruth Cusack, and Al Barrette) are all licensed hunting guides. If confirmed, there would then be 5 guides on the seven-member board.

While we certainly believe that all of the individuals appointed or reappointed to the Board of Game are qualified to serve, we must oppose any more guides on the Board of Game, regardless of class of their guide license, as it clearly does not provide a diversity of interest and points of view and unbalances the board in favor of commercial hunting interests.

We have communicated to all of the appointees our position, and in no way is our position meant to question their integrity or character or qualifications. This is purely about adhering to the statute governing diversity of interests and points of view on the Board of Game.

We have always made recommendations to the Governor and Boards and Commissions regarding Board of Game appointments, and currently we have three individuals whom we've recommended. One has served on the board in the past, one is a retired wildlife trooper who served as trooper liaison to the Board of Game, and the other is a resident hunter who has served on his local Fish and Game Advisory Committee for several years. None of these individuals holds a guide license.

We brought up our opposition to more guides on the Board of Game during the last session when the Governor appointed two new guides to the board, both of whom were confirmed and are now serving. We believe the statutory structure of the Boards of Fisheries and Game needs to be revisited by the legislature. For several years now the legislature has been using their own non-statutory guidelines for appointments to both boards, such as certain designated seats on the Board of Fisheries, and regional representation on the Board of Game. The legislature has been clear that they want commercial fishing interests to be represented on the Board of Fisheries, hence the two de facto commercial-fishing-interest seats on Board of Fisheries.

Regarding commercial hunting interests on the Board of Game, we are disappointed that the legislature has been willing to confirm so many guides to the Board of Game, while making clear they don't believe there should be more than two seats on the Board of Fisheries representing commercial fishing interests.

There are some 100,000 Alaskan residents who purchase a hunting license and contribute more than a billion dollars to the economy annually. Less than 1 percent of those resident hunters are licensed guides, who overwhelmingly cater to and guide nonresident hunters in the commercial hunting industry.

Certainly, it makes sense to have a licensed guide on the Board of Game to represent commercial hunting interests. It makes no sense at all, though, to have guides make up a majority of the board membership.

RHAK has an overview and history of the Board of Game and process available on our website that I highly recommend reading; it provides more context to our position and information on why we believe the statutory structure of the Board of Game should be revisited. You can find it at this link: https://www.residenthuntersofalaska.org/boardofgame

Respectfully,
Mark Richards Executive Director Resident Hunters of Alaska (RHAK)

5:14:35 PM
MR. RICHARDS in closing, stated that RHAK firmly believes that it is wrong to have the seven-member Board of Game be comprised of five licensed big game guides, regardless of their class of license or how many hunts they conduct.

5:14:42 PM
At ease

5:15:46 PM
CHAIR REVAK reconvened the meeting.

5:15:56 PM
CHARLES DARRICK, representing self, Fairbanks, Alaska, stated that he served on the Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee with Mr. Barrette. However, he resigned when he was appointed to

the Board of Fisheries. He commended his broad working knowledge of Alaska regulations, laws, and Game Management Units (GMUs). He characterized him as an impressive appointee.

5:17:10 PM
VIRGIL UMPHENOUR, representing self, Fairbanks, Alaska, spoke in support of David Weisz's confirmation to the Board of Fisheries and Al Barrette and Beatrice "Ruth" Cusack's confirmation to the Board of Game. He stated that he had served on the Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee for 18 years, serving with Mr. Barrette for about 15 years. He said Mr. Barrette is a fair, scientific person who is highly knowledgeable about the board process. He offered his belief that Mr. Barrette fully understands the principle of sustained yield, predator and prey relationships, and wildlife habitat.

5:18:52 PM
PAUL SHADURA II, representing self, Kasilof, Alaska, stated that Mr. Heimbuch had previously noted that the board selection process should gravitate more towards people with a background with a broad array of participation and a decent understanding. He said he agrees with this statement, primarily if it is codified as a requirement. He offered his view that Mr. Heimbuch should be confirmed based on his qualifications and practical application.

MR. SHADURA II pointed out that Mr. Weisz does not list any fisheries experience. He offered his belief that the administration has made some political appointments by appointing several board members from Southcentral Alaska. He acknowledged that providing a diversity of interests is difficult. The state's fisheries resources are dispersed regionally and pose different biological and social issues. He related that the framers of the Alaska Constitution deliberated on numerous considerations to reflect geographical locations, types of fish, fisheries, and political points of view to allow for a diverse volunteer board.

MR. SHADURA II asked members to follow the current qualifications and guidelines to avoid political considerations and enhance the process by appointing board members with scientific solid, practical application, historical knowledge, and regional perspectives to improve the board's expertise and reduce political conflicts.

5:21:05 PM

SENATOR MICCICHE asked which Board of Fisheries appointments he supported or did not support.

MR. SHADURA II answered that he supported Mr. Heimbuch and Mr. Carpenter and has no recommendation on Mr. Weisz because of his lack of experience.

5:21:57 PM
SHANNON MARTIN, Executive Director, Kenai River Sportfishing Association (KRSA), Soldotna, Alaska, stated that the KRSA is a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring the sustainability of the greatest sportfishing river in the world, the Kenai River. KRSA's area of responsibility encompasses the Kenai River Watershed and the Greater Cook Inlet Basin in Alaska. She stated that KRSA supports the appointment of David Weisz to the Board of Fisheries because of his proven leadership. She said he is a well-respected businessman, and KRSA believes he will listen to all perspectives and make fair and impartial decisions for all user groups.

5:23:22 PM
JERRY MCCUNE, Lobbyist; Chair, Board of Directors, Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU), Cordova, Alaska, offered CDFU's support for the appointment of Mike Heimbuch to the Board of Fisheries. He related that he has known him for over 40 years. He stated that Mr. Heimbuch has commercially fished in many parts of the state, but is also knowledgeable about personal use, subsistence and other fisheries in the state. He offered his belief that he will be fair to all user groups.

5:24:16 PM
TRACY WELCH, Lobbyist; Executive Director, United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA), Petersburg, Alaska, stated that UFA supports the appointment of Floyd "Mike" Heimbuch to the Board of Fisheries. He has significant commercial fishing experience throughout Alaska and has held leadership roles in various committees, councils, and groups.

MS. WELCH said that Mr. Heimbuch is a longtime commercial fisherman who has participated in fisheries across the state, dating back to the 1960s. He has fished Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Bristol Bay, the Alaska Peninsula, and Adak throughout his fishing career. In addition to fishing experience, Mr. Heimbuch has been active in fishing issues across the state. He has previously worked in the legislature as a fisheries aide to the Speaker of the House, been engaged in fisheries associations, served on the Bering Sea Advisory board,

and been nominated twice for a seat on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. Mr. Heimbuch has also been active in his hometown of Homer, serving on the City Council, Port and Harbor Commission, and the Library Board.

MR. WELCH summarized UFA's view that Mr. Heimbuch's fisheries experience, experience serving on other boards and commissions, and familiarity with fishing issues throughout Alaska will serve him well on the Board of Fisheries.

5:25:35 PM
CHAIR REVAK closed public testimony on the governor's appointees to the Board of Fisheries and Board of Game.

5:25:49 PM
SENATOR MICCICHE related his understanding that Mr. Heimbuch had a commercial fishing violation and asked him to elaborate.

MR. HEIMBUCH answered that in 1987 he had a violation when the Cook Inlet fishery was transitioning from a 3-mile radar line to a straight line because it was challenging to precisely identify the vessel's location. He had a second violation in Bristol Bay, where it was necessary to drop a blue card before fishing. He stated that he had fished in a cannery that delivered the blue cards by airplane to ADF&G in King Salmon. He said the planes didn't fly for two and a half days. The violation was discovered a year later when ADF&G found the discrepancy.

SENATOR MICCICHE commented that he never had a fishing violation. He acknowledged that most fishermen do their best to follow the rules. He expressed appreciation that Mr. Heimbuch had explained the years-old fishing violations.

5:29:38 PM
At ease

5:30:15 PM
CHAIR REVAK reconvened the meeting.

5:30:21 PM
SENATOR MICCICHE stated that in accordance with AS 39.05.080, the Senate Resources Standing Committee reviewed the following and recommends the appointments be forwarded to a joint session for consideration:

Board of Fisheries
Thomas Carpenter – Cordova

David Weisz – Wasilla
Floyd "Mike" Heimbuch – Homer

Board of Game
Allen "Al" Barrette - Fairbanks
Beatrice "Ruth" Cusack – Chugiak

5:30:45 PM
[Signing the reports regarding appointments to boards and commissions in no way reflects individual members' approval or disapproval of the appointees; the nominations are merely forwarded to the full legislature for confirmation or rejection.]

5:32:01 PM
There being no further business to come before the committee, Chair Revak adjourned the Senate Resources Standing Committee meeting at 5:32 p.m.