

February 2, 2022

The Honorable Calvin Schrage

Chair, House Committee on Energy

Juneau, AK 99801

LETTER IN SUPPORT OF SB 177

The Nuclear Innovation Alliance (NIA) strongly supports the introduction in the Alaska legislature of SB 177, which lays out a blueprint for microreactor deployment to address energy demands and resilience needs. American advanced nuclear energy, supported by domestic innovation and public investment, is poised to offer new, clean, and reliable energy solutions to improve energy resilience this decade. American microreactor projects are entering licensing processes now and could debut as early as 2025. As the Alaska legislature considers how to promote clean, reliable energy, the NIA applauds this important first step in considering advanced nuclear energy and including microreactor technology as part of the state's overall energy strategy.

The Nuclear Innovation Alliance (NIA) is a non-profit think tank working to enable nuclear power as a global solution to provide clean and reliable energy. We are dedicated to encouraging innovation in technologies and business models to increase the affordability and availability of advanced nuclear energy as a tool for addressing critical reliability and energy security needs. Founded by environmental organizations, academic institutions, and private sector innovators, we work to identify barriers, perform analysis, engage with stakeholders, and educate policy makers.

Microreactors can reshape Alaska's power and energy industry. Microreactor designs vary in size and characteristics. Most are intended to produce between 1 and 100 megawatts of thermal energy that could be used directly as heat or converted into electricity. Microreactors will be factory fabricated, transported to the construction site, and located near energy users, which will lessen the difficulties associated with large-scale construction, shipping fuel to remote communities, and attaining energy resilience. Microreactors will also generally not require regular refueling. They are expected to have long core lives and can operate up to 10 years or more without refueling.

Alaska is an ideal location for a microreactor and Alaska can lead the way in broader microreactor commercialization. Alaskan communities typically experience high energy costs, a lack of energy access, and energy disruptions. Microreactor technology can alleviate energy insecurity and help Alaska's rural communities meet their energy resilience goals by providing the clean heat and electricity that an isolated community with harsh weather needs. Microreactors integrate readily into microgrid systems, which currently serve many Alaskan communities.

We look forward to seeing this legislation move forward.

Sincerely,

Judi Greenwald

Executive Director

Nuclear Innovation Alliance