

## Patti Saunders

I worked to stop the construction and use of nuclear reactors fifty years ago. Then, as a resident of Pennsylvania, I lived through the frightening near-meltdown of the Three Mile Island reactor. Americans got lucky that time, but only by the narrowest margin.

I thought we'd learned our lesson about the unacceptable risks posed by nuclear power. But apparently not. I am so disappointed that Alaska's governor and legislature have swallowed industry's propaganda (i.e., misinformation) about "micro-nukes."

"Micro-nukes" pose the same risks as full-sized reactors and some extra ones. They contain as much nuclear material as TEN nuclear warheads. Despite being touted as the solution for power needs in remote parts of Alaska, they cannot be safely operated without operators on site -- and with or without an operator, are extremely vulnerable to terrorist attack.

Micro-nukes are a false solution to rural energy needs and the climate crisis. They are dirty, expensive, dangerous, and cause serious health harms and environmental contamination. Alaska can and must do better if we hope to maintain into the future the kind of Alaska Alaskans cherish.

I urge you to do everything in your power to include the very strictest standards for micro-nukes in these regulations, up to and including prohibiting them in places where they present unacceptable risks to air, water, fish, wildlife, and humans now and in the future -- which would be everywhere, if you use science and nuclear power's awful history as your guide, as you should. As you must, if you are to honor your responsibility to protect the public and Alaska's environment.