

Testimony to the Minnesota Legislature In Regards to the Preservation of Nuclear Power
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I am a radiation health physicist and environmentalist who has been fighting to preserve nuclear power in general and the recycling of used nuclear fuel specifically to foster the most environmentally sound contribution to clean air available to today's technology.

I want to address this group from the perspective of a normal citizen, an environmentalist, a pragmatist, and one who cares about the plight of liberty in America. It is curious to me that this legislature has not supported the most prolific and compact form of clean energy in the face of what you claim to believe is the worst calamity for the future of the world: lack of clean air. It makes no sense to passionately proclaim your lament for the future "of our children" in the name of "Climate Change", yet you publically denigrate the technology that is most effective in alleviating your worries. This leads me to believe that there is another agenda in your minds besides environmentalism.

In my mind, the greatest threat to our future is lack of affordable, available, and robust electricity that has been delivered effectively for a century, and which is the most pronounced factor in our quality of life. Yet you eschew the continuity of existing nuclear power plants with decades of efficient operations left in their future. This economic degradation to our citizens goes against ethical and moral guidelines you have embraced to do what is best for your citizens. Perhaps you just do not understand nuclear power, specifically next generation Small Modular Reactors. Let me give you a few facts that you may not know:

The current nuclear power industry enjoys the best industrial safety record of all industry in the US, and has for 6 decades. Nobody has been injured or killed from a Boiling Water Reactor or a Pressurized Water Reactor in commercial service. Ever.

Next Generation nuclear reactors are even safer in that they cannot "melt down" no matter what the emergency is. They are physically designed to be intrinsically safe in that they will shut themselves down with no operator intervention.

The slightly used nuclear fuel, that you refer to as "nuclear waste" has enough energy to power the United States for 250 years, using only material already on hand, if recycled using fast reactor technology.

The best way for citizens to get the best price for electricity is to maximize the competition and minimize the necessary regulations placed on industry. Shutting down nuclear power plants before their useful life is reducing competition is short-changing electric customers; your constituents.

I would encourage you to pass the resolutions before you to at least keep the nuclear power industry going. If they compete in the open market, they will survive, if they cannot, they will not. However, passing artificial laws restricting competition and business liberty greatly hinders the quality of life for your voting public. Thank you for your attention.