Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
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Environment and Other Legislation Amendment (Removing Nuclear Energy Prohibitions) Bill 2022

Dear Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications

We are at an incredible cross roads in out countries history and we need to update Australia, guarantee future generations and immediately commence a national development programme for nuclear energy.

Australia is the only nation in the world with a legislated ban on nuclear power, going back to a Howard government deal with the Democrats in the late 1990s.

This outdated political foolishness must be addressed now.

With energy prices out of control, South Australia's Labor Premier Peter Malinauskas has called on the Energy Minister Chris Bowen and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese by proposing an open-minded approach to nuclear power.

Bowen and Albanese have sought to suppress a proper energy debate by ruling out the nuclear power option, repeating the false claim that nuclear is the most expensive form of power, and resorting to emotive, alarmism – this is another form of colonialism, keeping us in the dark ages.

The current green options are failing us and are both not cost effective and limited. Further the green option is highly unsustainable and has miss lead the public about its promise of unlimited clean energy.

https://www.energy.gov/ne/articles/3-reasons-why-nuclear-clean-and-sustainable

Nuclear Energy protects air quality
It generates power through fission, which is the process of splitting uranium atoms to produce energy. The heat released by fission is used to create steam that spins a turbine to generate electricity without the harmful by-products emitted by fossil fuels.

Nuclear energy's land footprint is small
Despite producing massive amounts of carbon-free power, nuclear energy produces more electricity on less land than any other clean-air source. A typical 1,000-megawatt nuclear facility in the United States needs a little more than 1 square mile to operate. NEI says wind farms require 360 times more land area to produce the same amount of electricity and solar photovoltaic plants require 75 times more space.

In perspective, you would need more than 3 million solar panels to produce the same amount of power as a typical commercial reactor or more than 430 wind turbines (capacity factor not included).

Nuclear energy produces minimal waste

Nuclear fuel is extremely dense. It's about 1 million times greater than that of other traditional energy sources and because of this, the amount of used nuclear fuel is not as big as you might think. All of the used nuclear fuel produced by the U.S. nuclear energy industry over the last 60 years could fit on a football field at a depth of less than 10 yards! That waste can also be reprocessed and recycled, although the United States does not currently do this.

That is because the virtue of nuclear power is its enormous energy density, which is far greater than coal, gas and oil. The history of human progress has been driven by the development and mastery of energy sources of ever-higher density: from wood to coal to oil to now nuclear fission to possibly nuclear fusion. This ever-increasing energy density supports more people living at higher living standards, with a decreasing depletion of overall resources per capita. The very high energy density of nuclear power lends itself to secondary industrial processes such as water desalination, and industrial heating.

Please review all current international data and save this country from political foolishness and proceed with a nuclear energy programme.

Kind Regards

John Zink