

SENATE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE HEARING

Producing More American Energy and Using Less

100 New Nuclear Plants in 20 years: Why We Should Do it

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Statement of Scott L. Campbell

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What's at Stake in the American Nuclear Renaissance?

*Fueling Economic Growth, Creating High Tech Jobs, and Reducing CO2
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Introduction

Thank you Senator Alexander and Senator McCain for this opportunity to address the Republican Conference. The question you ask today—*100 New Nuclear Plants in 20 years: Why We Should Do It?*—is a crucial one for all Americans.

The role of nuclear energy in America's future is critical to continuing and improving our way of life, mitigating the risks of global warming while growing our economy, creating and keeping high tech jobs, maintaining our competitiveness, and combating the perils of nuclear proliferation.

The American Council

I am speaking today on behalf of the American Council on Global Nuclear Competitiveness.

The Council was founded in 2006 as a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to getting the facts out about nuclear energy and what it means for America.

The bipartisan Council is chaired by Senator Howard Baker, Senator Bennett Johnston and Ambassador Paul Robinson. Our members come from government, industry and academia—all interested in seeing an American Nuclear Renaissance become a reality.

If we look around the world today, we see that zero emission nuclear energy which the United States pioneered, developed and shared with the world is undergoing a nuclear renaissance in Asia, Europe, Africa and South America. Sadly, only the U.S. may fail to join this movement and therefore is in danger of losing ground on many fronts.

We have not built a new nuclear plant in 30 years, the companies that developed our reactors and serviced them have largely moved offshore, skilled nuclear workers in the metal trades and other areas have migrated to other employment. In others words, we are in danger of losing core energy capabilities. We are in danger of losing completely a core energy industry.

With these stark realities in mind, the Council has sought to determine objectively what is at stake in an American Nuclear Renaissance?

What do we stand to lose if we abandon the revolutionary energy source we discovered and brought to the world?

What do we stand to gain at home and internationally if we reclaim our fading leadership in nuclear energy?

The Economy and the Environment

Recently, the Council has focused on two principal concerns—the economy and the environment. We sought to determine what impacts an American Nuclear Renaissance would have on economic growth, job creation and CO2 reduction.

We commissioned Oxford Economics, which had evaluated the British nuclear industry, to take a close look at our situation. They had no dog in the fight and provided an objective, third-party analysis of the impacts a nuclear revival would have on economic growth, job creation and the environment.

Oxford conducted the study in two stages, first a macro study and second a state-by-state analysis. They completed the investigation before the “Great Recession” arrived and the impressive findings are all the more dramatic today in these troubled economic times.

The Oxford Findings in a Nutshell

- Oxford assumed the following:
 - 52 new nuclear plants built by 2030
 - 4 new enrichment plants
 - One large recycle plant
- What happens if the U.S. builds no new plants?
 - Nuclear capacity which produces 20% of our electric power needs today will drop to zero by 2050
 - If you think renewable will take up the slack, think twice: if we double the contribution of renewable (solar and wind) you produce less than 5% of demand
- What if the U.S. builds new plants and facilities?
 - 350,000 jobs, of which 45,000 are high-tech, high value added manufacturing jobs
 - Value-added benefits from supply change and spending by wage earners of \$45 billion
 - Carbon savings: 450 million tons of CO2
 - Import savings up to \$49 billion

- Jobs created are greater, more highly skilled and better rewarded than for expansion of conventional generation capacity

Bottom line: If the U.S. were to build 100 new reactors in 20 years, job creation and CO2 reductions would likely double, approaching 700,000 jobs and taking 900 million tons of CO2 out of the atmosphere.

Our take away from this study is that the nuclear build out will produce real jobs in the near and medium terms and will create long-term high quality work for many American workers.

This happened before, it can happen again. We have high hopes for the green tech revolution, but it remains to be seen when and how many jobs it can deliver. We know from American history what nuclear reactor manufacturing and plant construction can do for the economy and job creation.

Non-proliferation

Finally, the Council examined how the loss of U.S. leadership in the nuclear industry might affect our ability to lead global non-proliferation efforts in the future. We consulted experts in the field and worked with the national laboratories at Sandia and Los Alamos. Our conclusion was this:

The U.S. discovered nuclear energy, shared its peaceful use with the world through Eisenhower's Atoms for Peace program.

In doing so we created and led the international nonproliferation regime. That regime has operated well for decades but it is under pressure and in need of U.S. leadership.

One cannot be at the non-proliferation table unless one is actively engaged in the nuclear energy industry.

Our withdrawal from nuclear manufacturing, our failure to build new reactors, our retreat from industrial leadership, means that increasingly we are not at the table. And those at the table make rules. Historically, the U.S. and the world suffer when the U.S. fails to lead. Non-proliferation will be no exception.

Conclusion

If we abandon our nuclear capabilities and lose our position at the non-proliferation table, we weaken our country. If we launch an American Nuclear renaissance, we can preserve a vital industry, create thousands of new jobs, combat global warming and continue to lead global efforts to manage proliferation risks.

Copies of our job creation reports and our white paper on non-proliferation can be found on our web site—www.nuclearcompetitiveness.org.

Thank you.