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To those involved in the nuclear power plant expansion in Vogtle Georgia:

It has been recently brought to my attention that two new nuclear reactors are proposed to be built at the existing Vogtle nuclear power plant in Burke County Georgia. I understand there is to be a public hearing for citizens to share their concerns. However, I am unable to attend this hearing but wanted to voice my concerns.

I first want to state my position on nuclear power. I see it as a potentially safe solution to the use of coal-powered energy plants. However, I do not feel as though the technology exists to feasibly use nuclear as a safe alternative to coal. My first concern is with the nuclear waste. The rods used to produce the energy are highly radioactive and know to cause a myriad of negative health problems. It will be thousands of years before the rods can no longer be considered a threat to the public health. During that time, nuclear facilities are left with scarce options to store or dispose of these rods.

My next concern primarily addresses the water used to cool the reactors. While I agree that the steam produced from the water in the reactors is far cleaner than that produced from coal, it seems that the water supply in that area is insufficient in sustaining the reactors. Water for the Vogtle reactors primarily comes from the Savannah River basin, only about one third of this water is returned to the river. Currently, the two reactors use about 64 million gallons of water per day, which is more water than many towns and cities in Georgia use per day. This is especially important in the summer months when there are water shortages. Also, the water returned back to the river is hotter than when it is taken out. Such temperature change negatively affects fish, plants and other life forms that live in and around the water.

My highest concern is simply that of human health. A 1982 Congressional report estimated that if a meltdown occurred at just one of Vogtle's reactors, it could cause 39,000 early injuries, 4000 cancer deaths, and 200 early fatalities costing over \$60 billion. This report is over 20 years old, which would historically make the estimated rates for today much higher. I realize that the technology exists to prevent such an atrocity, but my findings confirm that most nuclear reactors do not always receive the proper inspections for preventing a meltdown.

I realize that at this point, nuclear appears to be a better alternative to coal, but I would much rather see a cleaner, safer energy available for Georgia's residents. Wind, solar and hydro power are just a few options. Each of these options show incredible potential to provide for the energy needs and are becoming much more economic and available.

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