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NRC/Duke Power Hearing Gaffney, SC

Good evening. My name is Clinton Wolfe. I am the executive director of Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA). I am here tonight to express our whole-hearted support for an expeditious application process that will serve its purpose appropriately, but will facilitate the urgent startup of these new power plants.

I am of the opinion, as are a growing number of Americans, that our nation and our planet face a crisis of rapidly expanding proportions with respect to global warming, increasing acidity of our oceans due to absorption of carbon dioxide, air pollution and its horrendous health effects, and dependency on unstable regions of the world for much of our energy needs. Debate will not solve the crisis although informed discourse on the proper path is entirely appropriate, but when that is said and done, we must act. The verdict has been in for some time now. The facts are indisputable. Nuclear energy is the safest, cleanest form of baseload energy production the world has ever seen.

It is time that our nation acts in a "Man on the Moon" manner to rebuild the infrastructure to rapidly expand the nation's nuclear power fleet. Our ancestors will surely wonder what took us so long. We have chosen to use fossil fuels (oil, gas, and coal) resulting in 25,000 premature deaths annually in the U.S. alone (estimated by the Centers for Disease Control). Instead of the safest technology for baseload electricity production, we chose the ones most likely to damage our environment and injure our citizens. Fossil fuels will certainly be an element of the energy supply for decades to come, but we must provide new capacity through the nuclear option and replace fossil fuel units as they wear out with nuclear ones as rapidly as possible.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to express our opinion on this very important matter.

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