

Areva/NRC Public Statement
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Thank you for this opportunity to speak in support of Areva's proposed uranium-enrichment plant. I believe this project is good for two reasons.

First, this project is environmentally responsible. It is tested. It is proven technology. I think most people agree that we need safe, clean, secure, and abundant base-load power. In my opinion, Areva's project complements these important energy goals. I also believe that serious thinkers on this issue agree nuclear power is the only technology able to deliver on all of these dimensions. I acknowledge that there are reasonable people who have safety concerns, but most of those I have spoken with that oppose nuclear power believe nuclear safety *is possible*. However, there are those that let anxieties rule. Their doubts lead to fight against any implementation of nuclear power. I personally believe that we are all better to focus on growing a safe, clean, secure and abundant nuclear industry.

Second, the Areva project is good for the economy, both in the short and long run. In the short run, it will create many Idaho jobs, both in Idaho Falls and Boise. A modest estimate of jobs created will number in the thousands. In addition, many more jobs will be saved. In my industry—my company, my customers, my suppliers, my competitors even the State of Idaho's DBS—I am aware of many Treasure Valley jobs that depend on Areva's success.

I ask every Boise elected official to speak directly with your business community and especially with anyone in the construction business. We have been among the hardest hit during these difficult economic times. Ask these businesses and their employees—your constituents—if Areva's project will save and create Boise jobs. If you have doubts, call me. I can introduce you to many Boise based businesses and employees who hope this Areva project is a success.

In the long run, this project will augment our base-load electrical needs. Nuclear energy is a significant part of the answer to our energy needs. I worked for Philips Semiconductors during the years when the semiconductor industry started moving jobs from the United States overseas. Countries with empty fields, cheap and abundant power, clean and plentiful water, an education program fully developed complete with a steady stream of graduates, and low taxes. These countries provided all this and an invitation to come.

If America and Idaho are going to compete in this world, we too need to provide clean water, quality education, and reasonable taxes. But we also need to provide energy—abundant power—predictable base-load energy. I personally believe that nuclear energy should be a significant part of that base. Areva's project helps us to achieve success. This project is good for our planet and it is good for our economy. Thank you for giving me this time.