

Small Modular Reactor Statement

My name is John D. Ragan and I am a Tennessee state representative from the thirty-third district. This district includes most of Anderson County, the city of Oak Ridge and Y-12 National Security Complex and a portion of the Oak Ridge Nation Laboratory.

I serve as the Vice-Chair of the House Government Operations Committee, as Co-Chair of the National Conference of State Legislatures Nuclear Working Group and represent the State of Tennessee as a board member on the Interstate Compact Group, the Southern States Energy Board. Additionally, I am a past Chair of the Tennessee House Energy Task Force.

I stand before you today to strongly encourage you to favorably consider siting a small modular reactor on the Oak Ridge Federal Reservation. This technology is potentially transformative to the production of electricity in, both, environmental and economic terms.

As I am sure you know, this method of power production is completely “carbon-free” and it is scalable. Moreover, it represents “base load” capacity. That is to say it provides a constant power output for peak load periods of the day whether the wind is blowing or the sun is shining or not. Moreover, there is no negative impact on the avian population and only a relatively small amount of acreage is required, leaving far more land available for productive uses compared to solar cells.

Economically, this technology, while not cheap, costs far less than the traditional nuclear power production methods. It has advantages in terms of providing jobs for the production of parts and pieces right here in the US rather than having to procure critical items from overseas suppliers.

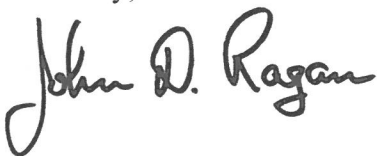
However, this technology has the ability to become to electricity production what the cell phone was to communications. In other words, it represents the potential to “electrify” portions of the globe which heretofore have had limited, or no, access to electricity. This technology is being pursued by our strategic competitors and they will supply world demand if we do not. Moreover, they will do so at significant economic advantage to us.

As final point, I want to emphasize that the US electrical grid is aging and vulnerable to both natural disasters and intentional disruption. Portions of our electric grid are a century old and all of our grid is interconnected into only three main sections. Additionally, all of these are electronically controlled creating vulnerabilities that are best not discussed in public forum.

Small modular reactors create the opportunity for micro grids and classically reduce vulnerability through diversity and redundancy. Beyond the potentially increased public protection offered by micro grid interconnectivity, there is a serious national security implication.

For the reason I have just cited and others of which I am sure that you are already aware, I, again, strongly encourage you to favorably consider putting a small modular reactor on the Oak Ridge Federal Reservation.

Sincerely,



John D. Ragan
State Representative and Southern States Energy Board Member

Representative John D. Ragan

Education

- BS - Engineering USAF Academy
- MS - Aerospace Science Embry-Riddle U.
- Graduate & Professional Studies
 - University of Oklahoma
 - University of Southern California
 - University of North Carolina
 - University of Tennessee

Military Service

- 24 years Commissioned
 - Fighter Pilot
 - Wartime Command
 - Thousands of Flying Hours
 - 8 Years Overseas Duty

Business Experience

- Fortune 20 Company Management Team
- Business Consultant
 - Multiple Fortune 500 clients
 - 4 Professional Certifications
- Commercial Pilot – Multi-engine & Instrument
- Senior Member American Society for Quality
- Former Adjunct Faculty
 - University of Tennessee
 - Embry-Riddle University
- Former Local Schools Substitute Teacher

Political Experience

- 4 — Term State Representative
- Vice Chair, House Government Operations
- Vice Chair, Joint Education Health and General Welfare Subcommittee
- House Health Committee
- House Health Subcommittee
- Chair, House Republican Policy Committee
- Vice Chair, Joint Veterans' Caucus
- Co-Chair, National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Nuclear Working Group
- Member, Southern States Energy Board

Personal

- Married, 2 Adult Children & 3 Grandchildren
- Grace Baptist Church Member
- Former USA Coach for 3 World Championships
- Former Youth Sports Team Coach
- Former High School Football Official
- Air Force Association
- USAFA Association of Graduates
- Civil Air Patrol Squadron Commander
- Member Anderson County Chamber of Commerce
- Member Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce
- American Legion & VFW Member
- Honorary Board Member of MCSO Historical Ass