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Washington State is investigating its geothermal resources as a reliable source of energy needs. This is a significant step in the right direction since geothermal does not have the obvious long term liabilities of hydrocarbon, or nuclear sources: no climate-altering emissions and no toxic radioactive waste.

Like Iceland, Western Washington has many volcanoes due to tectonic plate action. The result is large areas of naturally occurring hot geothermal heat. But unlike Iceland, Washington has not developed these high heat areas for its energy needs. Iceland provides an example of what is possible . Iceland's geothermal systems provide 25-30% of their electrical needs. (The rest comes from water power.) Moreover, as a comparative percentage, Iceland's electrical grid does not need to devote as much electricity to heat buildings, since they use naturally heated water for building heat and greenhouses.

Unfortunately Washington's ability to finance geothermal projects is endangered by serious funding competition: HB 2090/SB5821. These Legislative bills seek to integrate "new forms" of nuclear energy into our energy grid. Unfortunately nuclear has proven itself to be the most expensive power source at current costs. More importantly, these new small nuclear reactors (SMNRs) still create toxic radioactive waste, actually 2-30 times more than existing large reactors according to UBC & Stanford research. And this increased toxic waste amount per megawatt hour still needs to be stored until some ideal "solution" is found.

HB 2090 lauds Washington's nuclear waste disposal policies, but, in reality, at Hanford our state has long term liabilities and a radioactive threat to its groundwater. To protect the Columbia River this year, our federal government has allocated \$2.17 billion to manage Hanford's 56 million gallons of radioactive water stored in leaking tanks, and all of Hanford's clean up problems, according to current estimates, would take decades and cost \$589 billion to complete.

It makes more sense to invest in geothermal, as California has done with The Geysers system, which currently provides 700 megawatts of electricity for 750,000 homes, without the need and dangers of storing toxic waste.