

State Representative 20th District

>> I'm Ed Orcutt. I'm a State Representative here on the 20th district. I'm also a resident of the Kalama Community and live just a few miles from where this plant would be built. I'm giving testimony in favor of building the plant, and it's for many of the same reasons that we've heard people oppose the plant. We've heard that we can't mitigate, we can't reduce incrementally but I believe we have to reduce incrementally. I think any opportunity that we have to build a facility that will reduce the overall amount of carbon emissions that we're going to get, is something that we must be doing.

It's been mentioned about the catastrophic wildfires that we've had here. Those have released a huge amount of carbon into the atmosphere and what's even worse, is we've lost the carbon sequestration ability of those forests. That makes it all that much more important that we do these incremental steps to replace what has been lost. Not only is there more carbon in the atmosphere because of the fires, but it's no longer sequestering carbon.

I believe we need to do this to get the benefit in the time that it's going to take to get those forests recovered and sequestering the carbon that they've released, and other carbon it's going to take 40 years, 50 years for some of those, that's over 300 million tons of carbon that will not get sequestered if we do not build the plant. If we are in a climate emergency, we must be taking every step we can and doing it as soon as we can. To me, that says we need to build the plant and we need to build it as quickly as possible. Thank you