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Speaking as a licensed engineer with a background in naval nuclear power, I have a high degree of confidence in the safety of nuclear power. Obviously, there are risks as there are risks in any industry, but history shows us that the risks associated with nuclear power are low compared to the risks associated with the oil and gas industries. Speaking as an Alaskan who grew up in Bristol Bay where fuel and energy prices were often unbearably high, we need something else that is going to work for us.

Small modular reactors have the potential to revolutionize energy production and to shield our economies against future carbon taxes. Nuclear power, in general, has the potential to sustain all of humanity's energy needs indefinitely (on the order of 10 billion people for 10 billion years). With such a potential, we cannot afford to operate in continued fear and ignorance that has unjustly stymied progress for decades. As we are faced with escalating economic and environmental challenges associated with continued fossil fuel use, resources such as solar and wind have helped but have ultimately demonstrated that they cannot completely solve our problems. Speaking as a citizen, being against nuclear power development cannot logically or morally coexist with the level of concern that currently exists regarding the mitigation of climate change. We must choose between being anti-nuclear or mitigating climate change because we cannot do both.

We need electricity, heat, fuel, fertilizer, radioactive isotopes, and chemicals to sustain the modern way of life; otherwise, humanity will eventually return to the "simpler" ways of life that it once knew during darker times of resource scarcity, widespread deaths from preventable or curable diseases, political unrest, economic oppression, and rampant violence. The next generation of nuclear power plants has the potential to provide solutions for the needs that I have listed and do so without adding more CO₂ to the atmosphere, bulldozing large swaths of land, damming up our rivers, or extracting large amounts of resources from conflict-ridden areas. The fact that we have this potential solution before us means that we need to pursue it. We have moral and logical imperatives to do so.