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LD 343

What percent of carbon emissions is the USA responsible for?(11-13%) Of that, what percentage is Maine Responsible for?(0.2-0.3%) Maine has decreased our carbon output by only 25 between the 1990s to 2019. The cost of energy is too high in Maine. We have sacrificed our economy at the alter of green energy. We have sullied our pristine landscape with solar farms and wind turbines which provide costly and unreliable power to Maine.

Yes people have concerns with the safety of nuclear power because they have been conditioned to. Nuclear power is cheap, reliable, and safe. It is the most power dense, carbon neutral source of energy humans have developed. 80% of France's energy comes from nuclear power, and they sell the excess to neighboring countries. We put nuclear reactors on and under the ocean in some of the most strenuous conditions imaginable. The newest nuclear power plant became operational in Georgia and is based on a reactor designed in the 1980s. Reactor technology has improved greatly since then.

Yes we could use a coal or natural gas fueled power plant, but they require a constant supply of fuel. A nuclear reactor is self sustaining power. They do not have the logistical burden that a coal or a natural gas energy plant has. Maine needs clean, reliable energy.

Some people have a fear that having a nuclear power plant would make us a target. What kind of life is one based on fear? Does one not improve their life because it may make them a target? Do you not improve your house because someone may vandalize it? Do you not buy a new car because someone may steal it? Inexpensive and reliable power can transform Maine. Inexpensive and reliable energy is what this state needs to build its economy. A strong economy will build health and wealth for Maine. We cannot let fear of nuclear power hold the state back.

Of all the policy issues we may disagree on in Maine I think we can all agree that the cost of energy is too high in this state. The price of power is an anchor that Mainers should not be forced to carry. Mainers deserve clean, cheap, and reliable power. Maine needs nuclear power.