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We need MORE clean energy, not less, please fully relicense Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, for CA and our planet

The case for nuclear is clear, as it is for Diablo Canyon. We cannot effectively replace fossil fuels without nuclear and still maintain the quality of life that citizens expect, especially with the need for more energy in the face of climate change causing heat waves, droughts, and generally more extreme weather. The data is available, and history shows that countries that effectively decarbonize their electrical grids do so primarily with a combination of nuclear and naturally-occurring hydro resources. Data and history also show that nuclear has little negative effect on human health or the environment. Every electricity source has impacts, but while nuclear accidents are often quoted as one of the worst, while scary, data has shown our fears to be way overblown. The worst impacts from scenarios like what happened in Fukushima are from our own panicked, and largely unnecessary responses.

This is why Kristin Zaitz and I started Mothers for Nuclear. We need to talk about nuclear differently. In a new world where data is often ignored or discounted completely, we hope to create not just a rational case for nuclear, but an emotional one. Nuclear isn't just our largest source of clean energy. It's our hope for the future. Nuclear energy is what gives me confidence that perhaps, if we chose wisely, we WILL be able to reduce our emissions and not continue this spiral of consumption leading to ever worsening impacts. We CAN use more energy, IF it is clean and low-impact.

Californians are currently being barraged with messages about conservation, efficiency, prices, and time-of-use constraints. These policies, while potentially effective at reducing use, have huge social justice implications.

We've seen most groups who oppose nuclear and Diablo Canyon rampantly spreading misinformation and fear. I hope California decision-makers are able to look past these misguided, and frankly criminal attempts to stop our progress on clean energy. If we close Diablo Canyon, we are simply digging a bigger hole in our supply. I have worked at Diablo Canyon for 18 years now, and while I now fully support nuclear energy, I used to be sceptical, and even fearful at times. I understand that nuclear can be scary. But we must acknowledge the fear, and then put it aside in favor of rational thinking and data. We must look at all our options and pick the best mix of technologies to go forward in powering our clean energy future. It's clear that nuclear must play a large role, and the longer we can run Diablo Canyon, a hugely powerful and EXISTING source of clean electricity, the better.