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Protect American clean energy assets

According to the California Energy Commission's own data, 59% of all electricity consumed in California is already carbon-free, positioning the state as a climate leader for the Union. The Commission even boasted in February 2022 that California is ahead of schedule to achieve a 100% clean electric grid by 2045. Nuclear alone produces 10.6% of all electricity or 18% of that good carbon-free electricity. California has 1 singular nuclear plant producing that 18%: Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant.

When San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station was decommissioned less than 10 years ago, its generation was entirely replaced with additional fossil fuels. There has never to this day been a nuclear plant that has been fully replaced with renewable energy. Losing Diablo Canyon would mean losing almost 1/5th of the existing clean electricity, immediately setting California back to a majority fossil-fueled electric grid, falling behind schedule to achieve a 100% clean grid by 2045.

If Diablo Canyon was prematurely decommissioned and renewables could ramp up production from 34.5% today up to 45.1% in several years to make up for the plant closure, then we would simply be back where we are today, having made no progress. Without Diablo Canyon, the best-case scenario would be to tread water on climate goals and make up for lost ground. But if California keeps Diablo Canyon open, massive continued renewables growth would diminish fossil fuels usage and close coal and natural gas plants instead.

Climate change affects all of us on this Earth. Every American state and every nation must do everything in their power to provide clean carbon-free energy to its people. If California is serious about fighting climate change, drought, and blackouts, it will do everything in its power to protect its clean energy assets, including Diablo Canyon.