



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2598		DATE: 3/4/2026	
COMMITTEE: Utilities			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: BYRON KEELIN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-402-0655	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FREEDOM PRINCIPLE		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 2			
CITY: BALLWIN		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63022
EMAIL: freedomprinciplemo@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 7:25 AM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

The Freedom Principle strongly supports House Bill 2598, the Missouri Nuclear Energy Advancement Act. This common-sense legislation removes outdated barriers to nuclear development, creates a privately funded grant program with zero cost to Missouri taxpayers, and positions our state as a leader in the only truly green energy source on Earth.

Let’s be clear: nuclear power is the only genuinely clean, reliable, and sustainable energy technology we have. Unlike wind and solar, which require massive land footprints, rare-earth mining, toxic battery waste, and constant fossil-fuel backups, nuclear delivers dense, carbon-free baseload power 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, with a footprint the size of a football field. France has proven for decades that nuclear can supply over 70% of a nation’s electricity with virtually zero emissions and unmatched safety. Missouri can do the same. Advanced reactors, including small modular designs, are even safer, more efficient, and can be built faster. This isn’t ideology; it’s physics and engineering.

HB 2598 also delivers real relief to Missouri families and businesses by paving the way for lower electricity costs. Nuclear’s fuel costs are tiny compared to natural gas or coal, and once online, plants run for 60–80 years with predictable, low operating expenses.

By attracting private investment through this bill’s hybrid natural-gas-plus-nuclear model and performance-based grants, we can bring affordable, reliable power to ratepayers instead of forcing them to subsidize intermittent renewables that drive up bills. Missouri households already feel the pinch of high energy prices; nuclear power offers the freedom to escape that cycle.

This bill is fiscally responsible, pro-innovation, and pro-freedom. It puts private capital to work, protects ratepayers, cleans our air, and secures Missouri’s energy future. The Freedom Principle urges you to pass HB 2598 without delay. Let’s give Missouri families the power of true energy freedom.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CATHERINE VOGELWEID		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 6:53 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I support HB 2598, which establishes the Missouri Nuclear Energy Advancement Act. Nuclear energy is clean, reliable, and it makes sense for our future energy needs. We have seen an explosion of utility-scale solar and wind construction across Missouri, destroying the farmland upon which we depend for our food supply. Because solar and wind are weather-dependent and unreliable, they cannot meet our society's demands for energy. They have been proven to provide very little electricity at times of high demand. Because solar/wind can go to 0 and can under perform for long periods, they can't reliably produce power or reliably charge batteries. The high capacity factor of nuclear energy (90%) means that it can provide reliable baseload power. Nuclear energy requires 60x less land than utility-scale solar. Power generation can be built near demand, eliminating the requirement for hundreds of miles of high-voltage long-distance transmission lines. Nuclear is the smart choice for Missouri.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CHARLES G CRAWFORD		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/4/2026 9:51 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I respectfully request that the Chairman and all committee members be provided a copy of my testimony. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

My name is Charles Greg Crawford. My family has been farming for four generations, spanning nearly 100 years. I strongly support HB 2598, which advances nuclear energy development in Missouri.

Nuclear energy has been a safe, reliable, and stable source of electricity in Missouri since 1984 at the Callaway Plant. Nuclear power provides baseload energy, meaning it delivers a consistent and continuous supply of electricity to meet the minimum demands of the electrical grid. It operates reliably around the clock and helps ensure a steady power supply even as demand fluctuates throughout the day.

By contrast, solar and wind generation are intermittent sources of energy, as their output depends on weather conditions. This variability can create challenges for grid stability and reliability. We have seen the consequences of grid instability in places such as Texas in recent years.

Nuclear power plants also have a significantly smaller land footprint compared to large-scale wind and solar facilities. Expanding nuclear energy would not require converting tens of thousands of acres of productive agricultural land, nor would it necessitate the extensive transmission infrastructure often associated with dispersed renewable installations across Missouri.

In my view, had federal and state governments invested more heavily in nuclear energy alongside other sources, we might today have a more abundant and stable supply of electricity. Protecting our agricultural land base is also critical to maintaining food production and national security.

I respectfully ask that you support HB 2598 as written. Thank you for your time and consideration.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHERI MEADOWS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 8:36 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Cheap, reliable energy is what we all want and need. Nuclear fits that bill.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVID PATTERSON		PHONE NUMBER: 617-852-0925	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: BRIDGE TO NUCLEAR		TITLE: CEO	
ADDRESS: 2001 KIRBY DR.			
CITY: HOUSTON		STATE: TX	ZIP: 77019
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/4/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DEAN WEHMEIER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/4/2026 3:39 AM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

If Missouri wants to be serious about improving the economic situation of its citizens, we have to make the nuclear development environment more attractive than other states. Developing wind and solar is just wasting time and money.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: GREGORY L HEMPEN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-608-5843	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ECOBLAST, LC		TITLE: OWNER, ECOBLAST, LC	
ADDRESS: 56 MONTAGUE CT			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63123
EMAIL: hempen69@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 10:28 PM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I, Gregory L. Hempen, as the owner of EcoBlast, LC (a geological consulting business), am a proponent of HB 2598. The bill would encourage nuclear power generation projects that are important to the state's future general and industrial power demands. I heartily support HB 2598 as presently written. I would suggest an improvement to the will would be the addition in the applicable grant expenses of early site assessment for the geologic materials and possible natural hazards that warrant the project's suitability. Merely noting 5. (1) Site planning [line 36] may not resolve a site's possible deficiencies early enough in the project to alter the position of project or cost effectively mitigate the site's deficiencies.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JARED HANKINSON		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-3511	
REPRESENTING: MO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 149			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/4/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JOHN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 11:47 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I support HB2598. Nuclear is a great source of energy that is reliable and sustainable and one facility can produce alot of energy over a long period of time. Assistance should be provided to those who want to build these facilities. They will benefit Missourians for a long time once completed. Financial assistance to help them build will pay off in the long run for Missouri citizens.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KIM SHIELDS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 8:49 PM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I support HB2598 (Nuclear Advancement Act) because it strengthens our nation's energy independence while promoting reliable, carbon-free power generation. Nuclear energy provides consistent baseload electricity, supports grid stability, and reduces reliance on fossil fuels. Advancing nuclear technology also encourages innovation, creates high-quality jobs, and positions the United States as a global leader in next-generation energy solutions. By modernizing regulations and investing in advanced reactor development, the Nuclear Advancement Act supports a balanced, forward-thinking approach to meeting our growing energy needs responsibly and sustainably.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL WESTEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 10:23 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. I SUPPORT HB 2598.			



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ROBIN CRANE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 1:52 PM
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I am in favor of this bill. I believe that nuclear power is far more reliable and safer than solar



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN R. BURNS		PHONE NUMBER: 573-310-4655	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MID-MO LANDOWNERS ALLIANCE		TITLE: LEADERSHIP TEAM	
ADDRESS: 1948 STATE ROAD DD			
CITY: AUXVASSE		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65231
EMAIL: Susanraeburns@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 11:27 AM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

As a member of the Leadership Team, a grassroots group covering several counties that seeks to regulate wind and solar on farmland, I am in full support of this bill. Nuclear is a reliable source of clean energy with a small footprint that outlasts wind or solar by three times and costs 25% of what it costs to produce solar energy. Those wishing to build nuclear facilities need to be encouraged and helped so that Missourians can have reliable low cost electricity.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN WOODS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 8:14 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I support good, clean energy which pays for itself quickly and doesn't decimate farmland, wildlife, ruin relationships and communities. I support energy that doesn't purchase panels from China, panels that the Chinese don't even purchase as they most use gas and coal! Nuclear is the VERY best option for the USA! It's logical, economical, and doesn't harm any person or animal.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ALISON KAISER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/2/2026 5:24 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

We oppose HB 2598 and ask that you look at the facts rather than listen to lobbyist and those with financial interests in the nuclear industry in your decisions about how to generate power for our state. **RENEWABLES ARE CHEAPER!** This bill unfairly advantages nuclear options and disadvantages more sustainable and reliably safe options. The likelihood of environmental damage and threats to human life must be taken into consideration, and you must realize that we have **NO** long-term solutions for disposal of nuclear waste. Nuclear power requires enormous amounts of water, a dwindling resources and one we must conserve. This bill and others deprives the public of more sustainable power sources and removes any constraints on the nuclear industry, with the high costs of construction likely passed along to taxpayers. Please also consider the dangers posed by accidents and terrorist attacks on nuclear facilities; as well as the risk of exposing communities to cancer-causing byproducts. This is a bad bill!



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCAT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 3/4/2026 11:52 PM
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DAVE WEBSTER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/2/2026 4:17 AM
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We need to watch nuclear power much closer than this bill would allow.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ELYSE DIANNE SCHAEFFER		PHONE NUMBER: 314-246-0178	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI COALITION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT		TITLE: POLICY COORDINATOR	
ADDRESS: 725 KINGSLAND AVE SUITE 100, ST. LOUIS, MO 63130			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63130
EMAIL: eschaeffer@moenvironment.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 1:06 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

March 4, 2026

Chairman Bob Bromley
 House Committee on Utilities
 201 West Capitol Avenue
 Room 401-A
 Jefferson City MO 65101

Dear Chairman Bromley and Members of the Committee,

The Missouri Coalition for the Environment is a statewide advocacy nonprofit organization that works to empower Missourians to protect their environment and health. HB 2598 directs the sale of gas-powered electricity to fund the construction of nuclear energy and creates an office in the executive branch to obtain and manage additional funding to expand nuclear energy projects in the state. Nuclear energy is a completely unnecessary risk for Missourians to take on, both financially and in terms of public health. Therefore, we respectfully urge you to vote “no” on HB 2598.

Nuclear power has long been a deeply risky investment with long-term construction timelines, overshot budgets, and a history of uncompleted plants—so many there's an entire Wikipedia article listing them (1). It's estimated that, nationwide, over \$33 billion has been spent on abandoned nuclear projects (2). Take Bellefonte Nuclear Plant, in Alabama, for example. It's a project that cost \$4 billion so far, construction has been abandoned twice, and the plant has never produced a single watt of electricity (3). Every day Missourians with no other choice but to purchase power from their local monopoly utility should not be forced to foot the bill when the potential for stranded assets is so high.

Resting Missouri's energy future on nuclear power is particularly ill-advised when cheaper, safer, and faster to deploy electricity sources are widely available. Solar, for example, costs between \$20-\$78 per megawatt-hour and takes less than two years to come online (4). Meanwhile, new nuclear generation ranges from \$141-\$228 per megawatt-hour and takes an average of 7.5 years to build (5).

Finally, Missouri should not invest in nuclear development when the long-term safety of this fuel source is still unclear. Currently, nuclear power plants throughout the country store spent radioactive fuel on site in concrete encasings lined with steel that must be replaced every 100 years (6). The

creation of any new plants will necessitate the storage of these materials on-site at those plants (7). These waste materials have half-lives lasting between 24,000 and millions of years, so there is no guarantee current solutions will last long enough to protect the public (8). Further, research released just this week demonstrates that much more research is needed in order to prove that living near a nuclear power plant is safe. Harvard University researchers found that there is a correlation between living in a county near one or more operational nuclear power plants and cancer mortality (9). Future Missouri residents' health should not be put at risk by incentivizing more nuclear energy development. As such, MCE asks you to vote "no" on HB 2598 to protect Missourians from unnecessary health and financial risks.

Sincerely,

Elyse Dianne Schaeffer, Policy Coordinator
Missouri Coalition for the Environment
eschaeffer@moenvironment.org
314-246-0178

(1) "List of canceled nuclear reactors in the United States"

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_canceled_nuclear_reactors_in_the_United_States

(2) THE BIG PICTURE: Abandoned Nuclear Power Projects (Interactive Map)" Sonal Patel.

<https://www.powermag.com/interactive-map-abandoned-nuclear-power-projects/>

(3) "TVA CEO expects Bellefonte nuclear to be reality"

<https://electricityforum.com/news/tvaceoexpectsbellefontetobecomeareality>

(4) Lazard Levelized Cost of Energy+. Lazard Power, Energy and Infrastructure Group, 2025.

<https://www.lazard.com/media/eijnqja3/lazards-lcoeplus-june-2025.pdf>

(5) Ibid; "Global nuclear reactor construction starts and duration, 1949-2023" Cutler Cleveland.

<https://visualizingenergy.org/global-nuclear-reactor-construction-starts-and-duration-1949-2023/>

(6) "Storage and Disposal of Radioactive Waste - World Nuclear Association." Accessed March 2, 2026.

<https://world-nuclear.org/information-library/nuclear-fuel-cycle/nuclear-waste/storage-and-disposal-of-radioactive-waste>.

(7) "How and where is nuclear waste stored in the U.S.?" Ohio State University Engineering.

<https://engineering.osu.edu/news/2025/05/how-and-where-nuclear-waste-stored-u.s.#:~:text=After%20about%20three%20to%20five,that%20owned%20the%20nuclear%20plant>.

(8) "Backgrounder on Radioactive Waste" <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/fact-sheets/radwaste?utm>

(9) Alwadi, Yazan, Barrak Alahmad, Carolina L. Zilli Vieira, et al. "National Analysis of Cancer Mortality and Proximity to Nuclear Power Plants in the United States." *Nature Communications* 17, no. 1 (2026): 1560. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-026-69285-4>.



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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ILYSSA BLOCK		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 9:38 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

This bill is dangerous it revises our renewable energy standards by including nuclear power as a renewable resource, lowers future renewable portfolio requirements, and eases exemption criteria for utilities.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JILL E GATCOMBE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/6/2026 9:01 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Dear Representative Black,
I am writing in opposition to the more nuclear reactors being built in our state. I believe investment in solar energy is much safer and sustainable.

Sincerely,
Jill Gatcombe



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JULIE TIETZ		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/2/2026 10:52 AM	

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I oppose this bill because currently, there are no long-term solutions for nuclear waste. Furthermore, high costs of nuclear plant construction could place an extra price burden on ratepayers. Nuclear power plants can harm local ecosystems and kill aquatic wildlife. Let's focus our efforts on supporting clean renewable energy, like solar and wind, for a better future!



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KORTNIE HUDDLESTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/4/2026 11:22 PM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I am writing in strong opposition to House Bill 2598. This legislation attempts to jumpstart the expansion of the nuclear industry in Missouri, and it does so by creating a new government office and using revenue from natural gas electricity sales to fund it. This bill is a dangerous step backward for our state’s environmental future and public health.

First, HB 2598 ignores the catastrophic risks that come with nuclear energy. The history of nuclear power is a history of disasters—from Three Mile Island to Chernobyl to Fukushima. In each instance, human error and systemic failure led to the release of radioactive materials, rendering large areas uninhabitable and causing long-term health crises for surrounding populations. The bill claims there should be "no prohibition" on these facilities, but it offers no real plan to prevent or mitigate a similar disaster in Missouri. We are being asked to accept a risk that has already proven too high for communities around the world.

Second, the bill completely fails to address the intractable problem of radioactive waste. There is currently no permanent, safe storage solution for the high-level waste these reactors would produce. This waste remains dangerously radioactive for thousands of years, posing a threat to future generations and the environment. By building new reactors, we are simply creating more toxic material with nowhere safe to put it. This is an unethical burden to leave for our children and grandchildren.

Third, the funding mechanism in this bill is deeply flawed. It directs revenue from a natural gas electric facility to subsidize the construction of an advanced nuclear reactor. This creates a financial incentive to keep selling gas-powered electricity while we wait for a nuclear project that may face years of delays and cost overruns. Instead of locking ourselves into another polluting fossil fuel project to subsidize a risky nuclear one, Missouri should be investing directly in proven, safe, renewable energy sources like solar and wind.

Finally, creating a new office within the Department of Natural Resources specifically to promote nuclear energy diverts time and resources away from the agency’s core mission of protecting our environment. We should not be using taxpayer-funded staff to solicit grants for an industry with a legacy of contamination.

Missouri has the potential to lead on clean energy, but we should not chase the false promise of nuclear power. We must invest in a renewable future that is safe, sustainable, and free from the threat of radioactive catastrophe. I urge you to vote no on HB 2598.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2598		DATE: 3/4/2026
COMMITTEE: Utilities		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LARRY GRIESHABER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 1:12 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I urge the committee to vote no on both HB2598 and HB2807. Since their inception, nuclear power plants have experienced numerous failures that jeopardize public health and safety. Eighty years of operation and there is still no solution to the permanent storage of nuclear waste generated by these plants.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2598		DATE: 3/4/2026
COMMITTEE: Utilities		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: LEA LANGDON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/2/2026 2:38 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

HB 2598 directs the sale of gas-powered electricity to fund the construction of nuclear energy and creates an office in the executive branch to obtain and manage additional funding to expand nuclear energy projects in the state. Given the serious health impacts demonstrated by nuclear power plant disasters worldwide, the lack of a safe long-term radioactive waste storage solution, and the inherent risk of failure in human-designed systems, Missouri should not support industries that generate radioactive waste.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2598		DATE: 3/4/2026
COMMITTEE: Utilities		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: LISA PANNETT		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: ARMORVINE		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/4/2026 12:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2598		DATE: 3/4/2026	
COMMITTEE: Utilities			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MAHREE SKALA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/1/2026 8:20 PM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

It does not make sense to promote and fund nuclear power development when much less expensive and dangerous alternatives are available. The high cost of nuclear plant construction would increase ordinary people's utility rates. There is no long-term solution for storage of nuclear waste. Please oppose this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2598		DATE: 3/4/2026	
COMMITTEE: Utilities			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARCIA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/2/2026 4:37 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

This bill is nonsensical. The time for nuclear energy has gone. Don't pander to the nuclear lobby. The problem of nuclear waste has never been solved and construction is prohibitively expensive. Renewable energy is the future and nuclear is not renewable. This is not 1950. We've learned a lot since then. Vote like it's 2026 for Pete's sake.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2598		DATE: 3/4/2026	
COMMITTEE: Utilities			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL DREYER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/4/2026 11:21 PM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I am writing in strong opposition to House Bill 2598. This legislation attempts to jumpstart the expansion of the nuclear industry in Missouri, and it does so by creating a new government office and using revenue from natural gas electricity sales to fund it. This bill is a dangerous step backward for our state’s environmental future and public health.

First, HB 2598 ignores the catastrophic risks that come with nuclear energy. The history of nuclear power is a history of disasters—from Three Mile Island to Chernobyl to Fukushima. In each instance, human error and systemic failure led to the release of radioactive materials, rendering large areas uninhabitable and causing long-term health crises for surrounding populations. The bill claims there should be "no prohibition" on these facilities, but it offers no real plan to prevent or mitigate a similar disaster in Missouri. We are being asked to accept a risk that has already proven too high for communities around the world.

Second, the bill completely fails to address the intractable problem of radioactive waste. There is currently no permanent, safe storage solution for the high-level waste these reactors would produce. This waste remains dangerously radioactive for thousands of years, posing a threat to future generations and the environment. By building new reactors, we are simply creating more toxic material with nowhere safe to put it. This is an unethical burden to leave for our children and grandchildren.

Third, the funding mechanism in this bill is deeply flawed. It directs revenue from a natural gas electric facility to subsidize the construction of an advanced nuclear reactor. This creates a financial incentive to keep selling gas-powered electricity while we wait for a nuclear project that may face years of delays and cost overruns. Instead of locking ourselves into another polluting fossil fuel project to subsidize a risky nuclear one, Missouri should be investing directly in proven, safe, renewable energy sources like solar and wind.

Finally, creating a new office within the Department of Natural Resources specifically to promote nuclear energy diverts time and resources away from the agency’s core mission of protecting our environment. We should not be using taxpayer-funded staff to solicit grants for an industry with a legacy of contamination.

Missouri has the potential to lead on clean energy, but we should not chase the false promise of nuclear power. We must invest in a renewable future that is safe, sustainable, and free from the threat of radioactive catastrophe. I urge you to vote no on HB 2598.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2598		DATE: 3/4/2026
COMMITTEE: Utilities		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: NANCY ZELIFF		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/2/2026 9:36 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Currently, there are no long-term solutions for nuclear waste. High costs of nuclear plant construction could place an extra price burden on rate-payers. Nuclear power plants can harm local ecosystems and kill aquatic wildlife.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2598		DATE: 3/4/2026
COMMITTEE: Utilities		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: PATRICIA DANIEL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/1/2026 7:48 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am opposed to HB 2598 because currently there are no long-term solutions for nuclear waste, the high costs of nuclear plant construction could place an extra price burden on ratepayers, and nuclear power plants can harm local ecosystems and kill aquatic wildlife. I am for the use of renewable resources and energy conservation, not for laws that have no prohibition on the construction or operation of nuclear electric generation facilities like this Nuclear Energy Advancement Act.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2598		DATE: 3/4/2026	
COMMITTEE: Utilities			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RIVA E CAPELLARI		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/2/2026 11:29 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2598		DATE: 3/4/2026	
COMMITTEE: Utilities			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/4/2026 6:53 AM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

HB 2598 creates a new state office empowered to distribute extremely large public grants—up to \$100 million per project—to private nuclear energy developments while simultaneously shielding key project information from public disclosure.

Public funding of energy infrastructure is not inherently objectionable. However, HB 2598 proposes a structure that concentrates significant financial authority in a newly created office while limiting public transparency regarding how those funds are used. Section 640.801 explicitly allows project application materials to remain confidential and exempt from disclosure, even in response to requests under Missouri’s Sunshine Law. When taxpayer-backed funds may reach into the hundreds of millions of dollars across multiple projects, shielding those decisions from public oversight raises serious transparency and accountability concerns.

The bill also permits grants to support early-stage development activities including engineering design, siting, permitting, component procurement, and construction preparation. These are the most financially speculative phases of any large energy project.

If such projects fail to reach completion, the state risks subsidizing private development costs without any guarantee of long-term public benefit.

Furthermore, the bill contemplates coordination with public utilities through mechanisms tied to electricity generation infrastructure. When state incentives and rate-based recovery mechanisms intersect, the result can be that Missouri ratepayers ultimately bear a substantial share of project risk through future utility rates.

Energy policy decisions of this magnitude should be approached cautiously and with full transparency. HB 2598 instead establishes a structure in which substantial public resources may be directed toward large-scale industrial projects while limiting the ability of citizens to examine how those decisions are made.

Missouri taxpayers deserve energy policy that is transparent, fiscally responsible, and subject to meaningful public oversight. HB 2598 fails to meet that standard and should not advance in its current form.

Legislative Notice:

The General Assembly is placed on notice that HB 2598 authorizes the distribution of substantial

public funds for private energy development while exempting significant project information from public disclosure under Missouri's Sunshine Law.

When public funds and potential utility rate impacts are involved, transparency and public accountability are essential safeguards.

Legislative frameworks that combine taxpayer funding authority with confidentiality provisions should be evaluated carefully to ensure consistency with Missouri's long-standing commitment to open government and fiscal oversight.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2598		DATE: 3/4/2026
COMMITTEE: Utilities		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SHERRY L BUCHANAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/2/2026 9:58 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Missouri should concentrate on renewable sources of energy. Nuclear is not a renewable source. Currently, there are no long-term solutions for nuclear waste, creating unsafe conditions for all of us. The high costs of nuclear plant construction could place an extra price burden on ratepayers. The last thing we need is more expensive utility bills. Nuclear power plants can harm local ecosystems and kill aquatic wildlife. Conservationists and sportspersons in Missouri should be concerned.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2598		DATE: 3/4/2026	
COMMITTEE: Utilities			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUMMER JOSEPHSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/2/2026 11:28 AM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I'm a Missouri voter & I am opposed to HB2598 which would establish the "Missouri Nuclear Energy Advancement Act".

Nuclear energy is cost prohibitive & unsustainable.

Start up costs - Initial capital requirements are outrageous. Nuclear constructions projects are notorious for running behind schedule & over-budget. So much so that energy companies seem unwilling to build nuclear facilities unless they're able to pass the cost on to rate payers before the facilities are constructed (CWIP). I see that efforts are currently underway (via HB 2122) to force Missouri utility customers to foot the bill for that.

Maintenance costs - The uranium fuel required to run nuclear facilities is expensive & difficult to mine. There are limited supplies of uranium. It is not sustainable. The cost to maintain nuclear facilities is much higher than renewable energy sources like wind & solar.

Waste costs – Nuclear waste remains radioactive for hundreds of thousands of years. There are no long-term storage solutions for radioactive waste, and most is stored in temporary, above-ground facilities. This is expensive, unsustainable, & very risky.

Nuclear energy is wildly dangerous.

Chernobyl & Fukushima are famous examples of the devastating generational consequences of human error & natural disasters at nuclear facilities. The financial cost is staggering, but the toll on human life is harder to comprehend & unjustifiable: hundreds of thousands of people displaced; radiation related deaths; & increased cancer rates just to name a few.

Nuclear energy facilities & their fuel sources (uranium mines & facilities) are huge risks to our national security. Why create more targets for terrorists, particularly in our increasingly unstable world?

Nuclear energy facilities harm people & our environment even during normal, daily operations. They require astonishing amounts of water to use as coolant & then discharge that water at significantly warmer temps back into the environment. That warmed water can kill aquatic life & otherwise harm ecosystems. Studies show higher rates of cancer for people who work in nuclear facilities, as well as those who live in proximity to them – including childhood cancers like leukemia.

Please don't let short-sighted tech booms like the current demand for energy to support AI & related political campaign/PAC contributions lock us into nuclear commitments that last hundreds of

thousands of years. I urge you to oppose HB2598 and all legislation supporting nuclear power in Missouri and focus instead on increasing the use of cheaper, cleaner, reliable, & renewable energy sources like solar power.

Summer Josephson



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2598		DATE: 3/4/2026	
COMMITTEE: Utilities			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/1/2026 7:49 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Currently, there are no long-term solutions for nuclear waste. High costs of nuclear plant construction could place an extra price burden on ratepayers. Nuclear power plants can harm local ecosystems and kill aquatic wildlife.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2598		DATE: 3/4/2026
COMMITTEE: Utilities		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: TAMARA R SZABO		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/4/2026 6:50 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Please vote NO. Given the serious health impacts demonstrated by nuclear power plant disasters worldwide, the lack of a safe long-term radioactive waste storage solution, and the inherent risk of failure in human-designed systems, Missouri should not support industries that generate radioactive waste.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2598		DATE: 3/4/2026
COMMITTEE: Utilities		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: WINIFRED COLWILL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/2/2026 1:39 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

The length of time required and the high cost of nuclear plant construction will place extra financial burdens on customers, even if the plant is never completed as experienced in other states, like Georgia and South Carolina.

There is currently no place in the country for permanent disposal of high level nuclear waste. Therefore nuclear plant waste is stored onsite. Missouri should not adopt energy policies that add to the state's nuclear waste storage and disposal problem.

I respectfully urge committee members to firmly oppose HB2598.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2598		DATE: 3/4/2026
COMMITTEE: Utilities		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MIMI GARSTANG		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/3/2026 10:44 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I commend the committee's attention for hearing testimony on this issue. As you well know, energy for both Missouri and our nation is in high demand. It is important to consider all types of energy production in a careful but expeditious manner. Nuclear energy production is currently limited in our state. Future needs may necessitate expanding our capabilities in this area. Missouri has a wide range of natural hazards that creates the need for proper site specific evaluations for the site of a new source of nuclear power. Natural hazards risks may include the need to evaluate potential for sinkholes, earthquake proximity, landslides, underground mines, etc. This type of siting evaluation must include the expertise of a qualified geologist. Therefore, a reference to site specific natural hazard evaluations is recommended for inclusion in this bill.

Mimi Garstang
Retired Geologist , RG, CPG