

I use the words of two people who have been directly connected with nuclear energy in official capacities---the former Prime Minister of Japan and the former Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission---both were in office at the time of the Fukushima Daiichi disaster.

One-time supporter of nuclear energy and Prime Minister of Japan during the Fukushima reactor meltdown, Naoto Kan insists, "There is only one way to eliminate such accidents, which is to get rid of all nuclear power plants."

When asked if he would approve future nuclear power plants, former NRC Chairman Gregory Jacsko replies, "I wouldn't." He explains that all the problems caused by climate disruption are "...simply not going to be solved with nuclear power...we have to recognize that this technology is sort of past its point...we need to turn to other things which are quite frankly, cheaper."

I oppose Senate Bill 360 because it calls for the rebirth of nuclear energy in our state. In 1980, Oregon voters examined the realities of nuclear energy and put two reasonable restrictions on further development. No new plants without statewide voter approval. No new plants without a federally licensed nuclear waste facility. What has changed since that vote of 40 years ago? Devastating accidents in Chernobyl and Fukushima ended lives and livelihoods, permanently evacuating and shattering lifetimes of purpose for hundreds of thousands. Has the safe storage of decades of accumulated nuclear energy and nuclear weapons waste been resolved during the past 40 years? Nope---not even close.

I am grateful to the wisdom of those 1980 voters. I urge the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment to continue to honor the voters' prudent instructions.