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On Tuesday night, January 17, 2012, I watched PBS's Frontline about the Fukushima disaster on March 11, 2011. I am providing you with a copy of this program today.

For years I have studied and warned people about the Three Mile Island and Chernobyl accidents. The idea that anyone would want to build new nuclear reactors anywhere is inconceivable to me.

With respect to the Lee plant, there are highly aware and educated people in this area who are giving testimony today (1/19-12) about their concerns for the endangered ecologies upstream and downstream of the proposed reactors in Gaffney. I join in their concerns, and I beg you to not give in to the lobbying of money-making Duke Energy, and instead encourage those who are developing carbon-free, nuclear-free energy, so that we won't ever again suffer a Three Mile Island or Chernobyl or Fukushima.

With your blinders on, you can argue that Fukushima was on the coast, hit by a tsunami, in an earthquake zone. The Frontline story led with concern about the Indian Point nuclear reactor near New York City, which could very easily, in case of an earthquake, be similar to Fukushima. You can argue that the proposed Lee Nuclear Power Plant doesn't fit into that scenario. You can argue that the General Electric reactor was poorly designed.

How can you KNOW for sure that anyone else's nuclear reactor is safe? The fact is that EVERY nuclear power plant in this country and around the world is potentially devastating.

Just think about the North Anna Nuclear Power Plant in Virginia, hit by an unimagined earthquake in 2011. You can argue that this is a bullet dodged. But how can we believe that ANY of the nuclear plants are safe?

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is supposed to pay attention to the dangers of nuclear energy. To rubber-stamp Duke Energy's proposal is a betrayal of your responsibility to keep our country and our region safe.

The southeastern United States has an inordinate percentage of the nuclear energy and weapons industry. It is also blessed by a glorious environment which MUST be protected. Aiken South Carolina has basically destroyed the Savannah River, and Oak Ridge and other eastern Tennessee sites have polluted that region's waterways.

We MUST spend our creativity and money on perfecting carbon-free, nuclear-free energy systems which feed into and tap into a smart grid, where people can install solar panels or windmills at their homes or businesses and feed excess energy into the smart-grid.