

## Palisades Public Statement 4/17/24

My name is Shawn Connors, a retired owner of a Kalamazoo, Michigan, business, which I operated for 35 years. I'd like to thank the NRC staff for your service and for hosting this public forum to discuss repowering the Palisades nuclear plant.

When Palisades was in operation, it not only prevented at least 5 million tons of CO2 emissions each year. It also produced 5 percent of Michigan's electricity, representing 15 percent of its clean energy. That's from a spec of land 432 acres in size, located on a pristine stretch of Lake Michigan. 24/7, Palisades provided more consumable energy than all the wind turbines and solar panels in Michigan combined. There were no operational or safety reasons for Palisades to permanently shut down. That decision was based on the economics of the energy market at the time.

Times are changing. For the first time in Western history, power generation net capacity is falling behind the demand for energy consumption, and energy is becoming unaffordable. Today, many people

that are honestly fearful of climate change look at nuclear as a primary fix. Others are concerned about energy scarcity at home and energy poverty in the rest of the world. Climate Change and energy scarcity have made nuclear energy the bipartisan issue of our time. And Palisades is ground zero. Why is that?

Palisades will be the first nuclear plant repowered in US history, as they're doing in Japan now. Repowering Palisades would be a much-needed economic boost to Southwest Michigan. And a signal that the NRC is also looking at benefits as well as risks.

In summary, let's put the tactic of weaponizing fear behind us. And let's stop spending time on relative risks that are three or more spaces to the right of the decimal and start thinking about the real-life benefits like abundant, clean, reliable, dependable, and affordable energy.