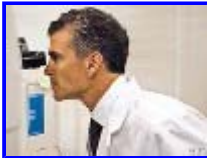


- John Stossel - <http://stossel.blogs.foxbusiness.com> -

Nuclear Corporate Welfare

Posted By [John Stossel](#) On March 23, 2010 @ 11:32 am In [Energy](#), [Free Market](#), [Global Warming](#) | [5 Comments](#)



[Are you a good candidate for LASIK?](#)



[How to restore your PC to like-new performance](#)



[The Asian secret to strong, lush hair](#)



[The secret to getting highly discounted cruise tickets](#)



[No. 1 online graduate-level program by enrollment](#)



[Obama stimulus provides money for online college](#)

Today Energy Secretary Steven Chu took to the pages of the [Wall Street Journal](#) ^[1] to sell his plans for more nuclear power:

America is on the cusp of reviving its nuclear power industry. Last month President Obama pledged more than \$8 billion in conditional loan guarantees for what will be the first U.S. nuclear power plant to break ground in nearly three decades. And with the new authority granted by the president's 2011 budget request, the Department of Energy will be able to support between six and nine new reactors.

Hello? I like the idea of nuclear energy too, but if "America is on the cusp" of a revival, then taxpayers shouldn't have to offer billions in guarantees! In a free country, when something is a good idea, it happens. Private capital makes it happen, without government force.

Why hasn't it happened? I thought that nuclear power is a wonderful underutilized energy source, hampered only by idiots who believe the scaremongering pushed by the likes of Jane Fonda and [The China Syndrome](#) ^[2]. After all, France gets 80% of its electricity from the atom, and they handle the nuclear waste without a problem.

But Cato Institute energy analyst [Jerry Taylor](#) ^[3] set me straight. Yes, the waste is manageable, he says, but affordable nuclear power is a Republican energy myth: "Take a Republican speech on energy and cross out nuclear, replace with wind and solar...and you've got a Nancy Pelosi speech on energy. Exact same thing."

Even if Greenpeace et al stopped their ignorant obstructionism, says Taylor, new nuclear plants are "just too expensive. The lifetime cost of building and operating is about three times more than coal-fired." The [Government Accountability Office](#) ^[4] and the [CBO](#) ^[5] both recognize this. They peg the chance of default on a nuclear investment at 50 percent. Likewise, investors recognize the risk. They refuse to invest in nuclear unless the government guarantees every penny of the loan.

Natural Gas is much more practical source of energy.

I'll talk more with Taylor about nuclear and other energy myths on my FBN show next week.

Article printed from John Stossel: <http://stossel.blogs.foxbusiness.com>

URL to article: <http://stossel.blogs.foxbusiness.com/2010/03/23/nuclear-corporate-welfare/>

URLs in this post:

[1] *Wall Street Journal*: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704231304575092130239999278.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEFTSecond

[2] *The China Syndrome*: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6PJ-BzXAN1c>

[3] Jerry Taylor: <http://www.cato-at-liberty.org/2010/02/18/radioactive-corporate-welfare/>

[4] Government Accountability Office : <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08750.pdf>

[5] CBO: <http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/91xx/doc9133/05-02-Nuclear.pdf>

Copyright © 2009 John Stossel. All rights reserved.