IN FOCUS: Meeting our energy needs:

- **Nuclear power clean, safe source of energy**

The dissenting opinion quoted in the March 31 article “Businesses support proposed nuclear fuel reprocessing plant” stated that the United States was moving too quickly to reinstate fuel reprocessing.

In fact, nothing could be further from the truth; it is we (the United States) who lag the rest of the world in closing the fuel cycle. Most notably, France has safely and cleanly reprocessed fuel from its reactors for years, and more recently Japan has begun to do the same.

The question with regard to risk is whether or not we believe we are as capable as the rest of the world of safeguarding nuclear material.

Moreover, the reprocessing technology under development does not separate weapons-grade material, and quite simply, there are easier (non-nuclear) targets for those who would seek to do us harm.

We need nuclear power as an abundant source of safe, clean and inexpensive power. Recapturing and improving on reprocessing technology domestically can take many years, and would offer many economic benefits to our state.

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