When the Green New Deal resolution was introduced in early February 2019, policymakers and energy experts from across the political spectrum weighed in with praise and criticism. Yet despite their disagreements, a consensus emerged across this vast ideological spectrum: any plan to reduce carbon emissions must be technology-neutral. Nuclear energy is essential if we are serious about climate change.

“Well as long as it's not emitting greenhouse gases up into the atmosphere then it's not increasing the threat of climate change. Global warming. That's our goal. I think we should be technologically agnostic, whatever gets the job done to reduce greenhouse gases going up in to the atmosphere.”
**Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.),** Feb. 7, 2019

“The best way, the only way really right now with the technology we have in order to get off fossil fuels, is to add more nuclear power.”
**Dana Perino,** former White House press secretary serving under President George W. Bush, Feb. 7, 2019

“... if a nuclear plant is currently operating and shutting it down would replace it with fossil fuels, we don’t see that as a pathway forward either and it would be preferable to keep it online and make massive investments in renewable energy around it.”
**Varshini Prakash,** communications director for the Sunrise Movement, Feb. 8, 2019

“If you want clean energy, nuclear ought to be the first step.”
**Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.),** chairman of the Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee, Feb. 7, 2019
“We enthusiastically support real measures to move toward a carbon-free energy future. We also believe in science, which dictates that we will never reach that goal without lower-carbon bridge fuels such as natural gas and carbon-free fuels such as nuclear power.”

**Terry O’Sullivan**, general president of the Laborers’ International Union of North America, Feb. 8, 2019

“For me, it comes down to a conversation of prioritization. If we are saying that decarbonization and the elimination of carbon and other pollutants is our top priority, then why would we tie our hands by taking important or zero carbon tools out of the toolbox?”

**Greg Carlock**, the Green New Deal research director for Data for Progress, January 2019

“I don’t think you can seriously talk about climate change without talking about nuclear energy.”

**Rep. Mike Simpson (R-Idaho)**, ranking member of the House Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee, Feb. 7, 2019

“On the question of nuclear, I would just argue, look, 20 percent of power roughly comes from nuclear energy, and it’s 100 percent zero CO2 emissions. So any practical conversation around addressing climate change has to think very carefully about letting nuclear reactors continue to retire.”

**Ethan Zindler**, head of Americas for Bloomberg New Energy Finance and senior associate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Feb. 7, 2019