THE CHANGING **NUCLEAR NARRATIVE**

The nuclear energy industry has seen a significant shift in the nuclear narrative, with editorials of support from major media outlets and a chorus of third parties—including historically adversarial organizations—publicly supporting efforts to preserve the existing fleet. Here are some examples:

The Nature Conservancy releases its Science of Sustainability study, which found that "in order to both meet increased energy demand and keep the climate within safe boundaries, we'll need to alter the way we produce energy, curtailing emissions of carbon and other harmful chemicals." The report presents multiple scenarios for sustainable energy use in 2050, including one in which one-third of all global energy comes from nuclear energy, to complement 54 percent coming from renewable energy. TNC also notes that a switch from fossil fuels would "lead to a massive reduction in air pollution exposure."

Natural Resources Defense Council and Sierra Club join NEI and others in a filing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission asking the commission to "preserve states' ability to achieve clean energy policy goals," including zero-emission credit programs.

Google publishes a white paper on progress toward its data centers using 24/7 carbon-free electricity and acknowledges that nuclear provides a large share of the grid's carbon-free energy. "Data centers that perform well on the metric of 24/7 carbon-free energy are often located in regions that have a substantial amount of carbon-free energy already on the grid," Google reports. "Accordingly, it's important for governments, utilities, and other energy market players to carefully consider retirement of existing firm carbon-free generation."

United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predicts severe effects of climate change coming by 2030 and identifies nuclear as one of the technologies necessary to hold warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Commentary in Grist magazine, an environmental news publication, suggests that climate change cannot be solved without nuclear power and says a shift in attitude toward nuclear is needed "to prevent us from going over the climate cliff." The piece concludes with "if we are smart, we'd see nuclear power for what it is: A good bet to save the world."

Julia Stasch, President of the MacArthur Foundation, co-authors an op-ed with Exelon Corp. President and Chief Executive Officer Chris Crane that calls for actions to address the climate challenge, which includes "the use of safe and secure nuclear power." They agree that the climate is changing quickly and the nuclear fleet must be maintained.

Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) issues "The Nuclear Power Dilemma: Declining Profits, Plant Closures and the Threat of Rising Carbon Emissions." UCS acknowledges the impact that nuclear plant closures have on climate and air quality and advocates for policies to preserve financially struggling nuclear plants. In a blog post about the report, UCS President Ken Kimmel writes it's important "that we keep an open mind about all of the tools in the emissions reductions tool box—even ones that are not our personal favorites."

Our clean energy future depends on keeping nuclear plants online and building new reactors at home. More are valuing nuclear for what it is: the largest carbon-free source of electricity in America and the only one that runs 24/7. **Find out more at nei.org/preserve**.