COMMITTEE TO BRIDGE THE GAP

GLOWING REVIEWS:
CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND INDUSTRY TIES BEHIND THE CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE NUCLEAR POWER

FACT SHEET

Nuclear power has become a hot topic, with President Trump, the tech industry, and even some climate activists pushing for a 'nuclear renaissance.' Yet the role of industry interests in this push has gone largely unrecognized – until now. *Glowing Reviews*, the new report from Committee to Bridge the Gap, pulls back the curtain on **the network of investors, donors, NGOs, and industry leaders that has worked to manufacture consent for nuclear power**. As the Trump administration enacts a historic slashing of nuclear safety regulations and delivers many billions of taxpayer dollars to the nuclear industry, understanding how we got here is critical to choosing where we go next.

THE PRO-NUCLEAR NETWORK (PNN): WELL-CONNECTED, STRATEGIC, AND INFLUENTIAL

- The report profiles 10 influential pro-nuclear NGOs and their work on a well-funded campaign, launched in 2014, to reshape public opinion and government policy on nuclear power.
- This campaign has had a significant impact on societal understandings of nuclear power: **PNN figures appear frequently in major media outlets and on social media, and public support for nuclear power has jumped from 43% in 2016 to 59% in 2026**.
- PNN figures have presented themselves and their views as "environmentalist," "grassroots," or independent of industry influence. Media portrayals of these advocates have often taken these depictions at face-value.

NUCLEAR INDUSTRY & INVESTORS PLAY A CENTRAL ROLE

- **The majority of PNN groups have nuclear industry interests among their boards of directors, staff leadership, and/or funders**. Many PNN staff or spokespeople have come out of industry, or gone into it.
- Third Way – one of the PNN's central organizers for over a decade – has taken nearly $1 million from the industry's main trade group, the Nuclear Energy Institute. A philanthropic and investment vehicle headed by Bill Gates – who founded and has invested at least $1 billion into nuclear power company TerraPower – has given nearly $20 million to the PNN.

BILLIONAIRES AND BIG TECH STAND TO PROFIT

- Major players including **Big Tech companies and billionaires like Peter Thiel, Marc Andreessen, Bill Gates, and Donald Trump are now financially tied to the nuclear industry**, picking up and running with the hype for nuclear that the PNN helped create.
- Venture capital investment into nuclear energy has skyrocketed from a mere $15 million in 2017 to over $1 billion invested in a single five week period in 2025. Companies including X-energy and Oklo have gone public, giving early investors a path to profitability.
- Federal legislation enacted since 2020 is providing the nuclear industry with many billions of dollars in subsidies, including nearly $2 billion to Bill Gates's TerraPower and $6 billion to maintain aging plants. The budget for the Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy has nearly doubled since the PNN's beginnings.

Due to limits on disclosure requirements for investors and nonprofits, ***the full extent of dark money funding for the PNN to amplify industry-friendly messages may never be known***.

READ THE REPORT: COMMITTEETOBRIDGETHEGAP.ORG/NUCLEAR-GREENWASHING