

SAINT LOUIS, MO -- Independent U.S. Presidential Candidate Blake Ashby issued a position paper today calling for doubling the size of existing nuclear power facilities without requiring community approval. Ashby also called for Republican candidates to take a pledge to support specific initiatives necessary for the growth of the nuclear power industry.

“It is not too much of a stretch to say that insuring an adequate supply of energy is a responsibility of government almost as critical as that of national defense” said Ashby. “arguably the easiest way to bring this additional capacity online is to allow each existing plant to double in size and generating capacity without requiring the new environmental impact surveys or community approvals that are part of the Site Pre-Approval process for licensing nuclear plants.”

Currently about 20% of the United States’ electricity is generated by nuclear energy. Doubling this to 40% would significantly reduce our dependency on fossil fuels and would help to combat global warming. Ashby recognizes that many people oppose nuclear energy from a moral perspective; because of the scope of the potential harm to humankind in the event of a catastrophic accident, nuclear energy is inherently wrong. But the choice is not between risk and no risk—it is a choice between different risks.

Ashby is also calling on Republican candidates to pledge to support three specific positions:

1. To support a streamlined re-licensing procedure for existing nuclear power plants.
2. To support doubling of existing nuclear power plants without requiring new environmental impact surveys or community approvals.
3. And that as president they will work to insure the opening of the Yucca Mountain waste storage facility.

“I am running because to my mind the Republican Candidates are avoiding the hard issues, and instead offering touchy-feely platitudes” said Ashby. “Here is an easy opportunity for the candidates to prove me wrong.”

About Ashby 2008

Blake Ashby is a life-long Republican who is running as an independent Presidential candidate because he has become frustrated with the fiscal irresponsibility and misplaced social conservatism of the party. He believes, as so many Americans do, that the strength of the our nation's government has been weakened by political hypocrisy on the parts of both major parties, and their neglect of the critical issues that affect America most is making our nation vulnerable. Ashby’s goal is to stimulate debate on the hard issues facing our country, and hopefully to help force the Republican Party to return to its roots.

###

For more information:

<http://www.ashby2008.com>