## Opinion

to include safe nuclear energy in the clean energy conversation."

Another strategy of the caucus is to provide members of the state legislature and executive branch with tours of the region's many nuclear facilities, both in Washington and in nearby Oregon and British Columbia. These include PNNL, the Hanford Site, Framatome, and the Columbia Generating Station, along with a dozen advanced reactor companies like TerraPower, NuScale, Ultra Safe Nuclear, Zap Energy, Avalanche, Terrestrial Energy, and Helion.

All told, the region hosts more than 100 companies with expertise and workforces able to support almost all of the supply chain needed to help ramp up nuclear power to where it needs to be in order to truly solve those energy and climate problems hurtling toward us.

Barnard thoroughly understands and appreciates the advantages these companies provide to her state. Over 15,000 nuclear workers is an amazing force that Washington must leverage for its future.

The Nuclear Energy Caucus is just the kind of group Washington needs—to educate the lawmakers, leverage the state's talent and workforce, and ultimately meet climate goals. And by doing so, the caucus and Washington state can provide the roadmap for successes across the nation.



James Conca is a scientist in the field of earth and environmental sciences specializing in geologic disposal of nuclear waste, energy-related research, planetary surface processes, radiobiology and shielding for space colonies, and subsurface transport and environmental cleanup of heavy metals.

## <section-header><section-header><section-header><text><text><text><text>