# Wake – Round 2 vs. Wayne State JS (Aff)

## 1AC

### Same as Round 2

## 2AC

### T

#### We meet: Nuclear fuel recycling is energy production.

World Nuclear Association 12 [Processing of Used Nuclear Fuel, http://www.world-nuclear.org/info/inf69.html]

Used nuclear fuel has long been reprocessed to extract fissile materials for recycling and to reduce the volume of high-level wastes. ¶ New reprocessing technologies are being developed to be deployed in conjunction with fast neutron reactors which will burn all long-lived actinides. ¶ A significant amount of plutonium recovered from used fuel is currently recycled into MOX fuel; a small amount of recovered uranium is recycled. ¶ A key, nearly unique, characteristic of nuclear energy is that used fuel may be reprocessed to recover fissile and fertile materials in order to provide fresh fuel for existing and future nuclear power plants. Several European countries, Russia and Japan have had a policy to reprocess used nuclear fuel, although government policies in many other countries have not yet addressed the various aspects of reprocessing.¶ Over the last 50 years the principal reason for reprocessing used fuel has been to recover unused uranium and plutonium in the used fuel elements and thereby close the fuel cycle, gaining some 25% more energy from the original uranium in the process and thus contributing to energy security. A secondary reason is to reduce the volume of material to be disposed of as high-level waste to about one fifth. In addition, the level of radioactivity in the waste from reprocessing is much smaller and after about 100 years falls much more rapidly than in used fuel itself.¶

#### Counter interpretation:

#### The aff has to affect both resource extraction and conversion into energy

Australian Government, Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency 2011 [“Energy Production and Consumption,” http://www.climatechange.gov.au/government/initiatives/national-greenhouse-energy-reporting/publications/supplementary-guidelines/energy-production-consumption.aspx]

Production of energy: in relation to a facility, means the:

1. extraction or capture of energy from natural sources for final consumption by or from the operation of the facility or for use other than in the operation of the facility
2. manufacture of energy by the conversion of energy from one form to another form for final consumption by or from the operation of the facility, or for use other than in the operation of the facility (regulation 2.23(3) NGER Regulations).

#### We meet the counter-interpretation: recycling involves both the act of reprocessing the used fuel and using it to create new nuclear energy.

#### Prefer our interp:

A. Predictability – Only our interpretation guarantees link arguments to both extraction and the burning of resources to produce energy. This is crucial link ground for pollution DAs and domestic/foreign energy tradeoff DAs.

B. Limits: Requiring the aff to both extract and convert the energy is necessary to eliminate affs that only extract, like capture carbon or methane or stockpile oil as a strategic military reserve with heg advantages.

#### Competing interpretations are bad: Race to the bottom: they’re just trying to limit out one more case

#### Prefer reasonability: as long as we’re reasonably topical, there’s no reason to pull the trigger. Don’t vote on potential abuse.

### States CP

#### Perm do both. Solves GOP backlash because thirty republican governors would all back reprocessing.

#### Information distortion means the CP links to politics

**Kiely, ‘12** [2/17/12, Eugene Kiely, Washington assignment editor USA today, “Did Obama ‘Approve’ Bridge Work for Chinese Firms?” http://www.factcheck.org/2012/02/did-obama-approve-bridge-work-for-chinese-firms/]

Who’s to blame, if that’s the right word, if the project ends up using manufactured steel from China? The National Steel Bridge Alliance [blames](http://americanmanufacturing.org/blog/shameful-use-taxpayer-dollars-alaska) the state railroad agency. The Alliance for American Manufacturing [says](http://americanmanufacturing.org/blog/alaskan-manufacturers-outraged-potential-%E2%80%9Cmade-china%E2%80%9D-railroad-bridge) the federal Buy American laws have been “weakened with loopholes and various exemptions that make it easier for bureaucrats to purchase foreign-made goods instead of those made in American factories with American workers.” So, how did Obama get blamed for the decisions by state agencies and for state projects that, in at least one case, didn’t even use federal funds? The answer is a textbook lesson in how information gets distorted when emails go viral. We looked at the nearly 100 emails we received on this subject and found that Obama wasn’t mentioned at all in the first few emails. Typical of the emails we received shortly after the ABC News report aired was this one from Oct. 11, 2011: “I just got an email regarding Diane Sawyer on ABC TV stating that U. S. Bridges and roads are being built by Chinese firms when the jobs should have gone to Americans. Could this possible be true?” The answer: Yes, it’s true. End of story, right? Wrong. Days later, emails started to appear in our inbox that claimed ABC News reported that Chinese firm were receiving stimulus funds to build U.S. bridges — even though the broadcast news story didn’t mention stimulus funds at all. (The report did include a clip of Obama delivering a speech on the need to rebuild America’s bridges and put Americans to work, but said nothing about the president’s $830 billion stimulus bill.) Still, we received emails such as this one on Nov. 4, 2011, that included this erroneous claim language: “Stimulus money meant to create U.S. jobs went to Chinese firms. Unbelievable….” It didn’t take long for Obama to be blamed. That same day — Nov. 4, 2011 — we received an email that made this leap to Obama: “SOME CHINESE COMPANIES WHO ARE BUILDING ‘OUR’ BRIDGES. (3000 JOBS LOST TO THE CHINESE FIRM)…..AND NOW OBAMA WANTS ‘MORE STIMULUS MONEY’…..THIS IS NUTS ! ! ! If this doesn’t make you furious nothing will….” This year, Obama’s name started to surface in the subject line of such critical emails — raising the attack on the president to yet another level and perhaps ensuring the email will be even more widely circulated. Since Jan. 17, we have gotten more than a dozen emails with the subject line, “ABC News on Obama/USA Infrastructure,” often preceded with the word “SHOCKING” in all caps. The emails increasingly contain harsh language about the president. Since Jan. 11, 23 emails carried this added bit of Obama-bashing: “I pray all the unemployed see this and cast their votes accordingly in 2012!” One of those emails — a more recent one from Feb. 8 — contained this additional line: “Tell me again how Obama’s looking out for blue collar guys. He cancels pipelines, and lets Chinese contractors build our bridges…” And so it goes, on and on. All from a news report that blamed state officials — not Obama — for spending taxpayer money on Chinese firms to build U.S. bridges.

#### States CP are V/I. 1.) No comparative literature compares the action of 50 states simultaneously vs. the federal government. Kills education because it removes substantive clash about energy production. 2.) Fiat abuse – uniformity eliminates the only aff against state action, which is enforcement. Kills competitive equity.

#### CP can’t solve – federal investment is necessary to remove the perceptual ban on reprocessing.

Adams, ‘8

[Rod, “What Do You Do About the Waste? Recycle and Reuse”, Clean Technica, 5-29-2008,

<http://cleantechnica.com/2008/05/29/what-do-you-do-about-the-waste-recycle-and-reuse/>, RSR]

The US used to have a plan to recycle our fuel as well, but a great deal of marketing and pressure by people that do not like the idea of using plutonium as a source of commercial heat resulted in President Ford issuing a presidential order to temporarily halt nuclear fuel recycling in 1976. President Carter, a man who claimed to be a nuclear engineer, made that ban permanent in the hopes that forcing US companies to avoid fuel recycling would cause others to abandon the very logical idea. That effort did not work as planned, but the people who had invested large amounts of time and money into building three recycling plants in the US only to have them shut down with the stroke of a pen decided “once bitten, twice shy.” Though President Reagan removed the ban, President Clinton essentially reinstated it and no commercial company has been willing to build a facility and risk having it turn into a white elephant after an election.

#### Doesn’t solve the aff – absent the plan, companies will never believe that the federal government will allow reprocessing, so they won’t invest. That’s Selyukh 10.

#### CP can’t solve - federal preemption of the counterplan exists now

Ostrow, associate professor of law at Hofstra Law School, ’11

(Ashira Pelman Ostrow, “Process Preemption in Federal Siting Regimes, Harvard Journal of Law, July 2011, <http://www.harvardjol.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/Ostrow_Article.pdf>)

For national security reasons, the federal government has long asserted exclusive authority to manage high-level radioactive waste. 130 The Atomic Energy Act of 1954 131 and the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 132 granted the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (“NRC”) exclusive regulatory authority over high-level nuclear waste facilities. 133 The statutes left no room for state participation, other than in an advisory capacity for certain transportation issues. 134 Nonetheless, by the late 1970s, the states began to actively regulate, restrict, and even ban the shipment of highly toxic nuclear waste and the establishment of radioactive waste facilities within their borders. 135 To resolve the jurisdictional conflict, Congress enacted the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (“NWPA”). 136 The Act was intended to “establish a schedule for the siting, construction, and operation of repositories” to protect the public and the environment “from the hazards posed by high-level radioactive waste.” 137 The NWPA required the Secretary of Energy to nominate five sites for a high-level radioactive waste repository and to recommend three of them to the President for further study by January 1, 1985. 138 The Act further required the Secretary of Energy to develop guidelines by which to evaluate potential repository sites. 139

#### Congress is necessary – overcomes regulatory process.

Fertel, Senior Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer at the Nuclear Energy Institute, ‘5

[Marvin, CQ Congressional Testimony, “NUCLEAR POWER'S PLACE IN A NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY,” 4/28, lexis]

Industry and government will be prepared to meet the demand for new emission-free baseload nuclear plants in the 2010 to 2020 time frame only through a sustained focus on the necessary programs and policies between now and then. As it has in the past, strong Congressional oversight will be necessary to ensure effective and efficient implementation of the federal government's nuclear energy programs, and to maintain America's leadership in nuclear technology development and its influence over important diplomatic initiatives like nonproliferation. Such efforts have provided a dramatic contribution to global security, as evidenced by the U.S.-Russian nonproliferation agreement to recycle weapons-grade material from Russia for use in American reactors. Currently, more than 50 percent of U.S. nuclear power plant fuel depends on converted Russian warhead material. Nowhere is continued congressional oversight more important than with DOE's program to manage the used nuclear fuel from our nuclear power plants. Continued progress toward a federal used nuclear fuel repository is necessary to support nuclear energy's vital role in a comprehensive national energy policy and to support the remediation of DOE defense sites. Since enactment of the 1982 Nuclear Waste Policy Act, DOE's federal repository program has repeatedly overcome challenges, and challenges remain before the Yucca Mountain facility can begin operation. But as we address these issues, it is important to keep the overall progress of the program in context. There is international scientific consensus that a deep geologic repository is the best solution for long-term disposition of used military and commercial nuclear power plant fuel and high-level radioactive byproducts. The Bush administration and Congress, with bipartisan support, affirmed the suitability of Yucca Mountain for a repository in 2002. Over the past three years, the Energy Department and its contractors have made considerable progress providing yet greater confirmation that this is the correct course of action and that Yucca Mountain is an appropriate site for a national repository. --During the past year, federal courts have rejected significant legal challenges by the state of Nevada and others to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act and the 2002 Yucca Mountain site suitability determination. These challenges questioned the constitutionality of the Yucca Mountain Development Act and DOE's repository system, which incorporates both natural and engineered barriers to contain radioactive material safely. In the coming year, Congress will play an essential role in keeping this program on schedule, by taking the steps necessary to provide increased funding for the project in fiscal 2006 and in future years. Meeting DOE's schedule for initial repository operation requires certainty in funding for the program. This is particularly critical in view of projected annual expenditures that will exceed $1 billion beginning in fiscal 2007. Meeting these budget requirements calls for a change in how Congress provides funds to the project from monies collected for the Nuclear Waste Fund. The history of Yucca Mountain funding is evidence that the current funding approach must be modified. Consumer fees (including interest) committed to the Nuclear Waste Fund since its f6rmation in 1983 total more than $24 billion. Consumers are projected to pay between $750 million to $800 million to the fund each year, based on electricity generated at the nation's 103 reactors. This is more than $2 million per day. Although about $8 billion has been used for the program, the balance in the fund is nearly $17 billion. In each of the past several years, there has been a gap between the annual fees paid by consumers of electricity from nuclear power plants and disbursements from the fund for use by DOE at Yucca Mountain. Since the fund was first established, billions of dollars paid by consumers of electricity from nuclear power plants to the Nuclear Waste Fund-intended solely for the federal government's used fuel program-in effect have been used to decrease budget deficits or increase surpluses. The industry believes that Congress should change the funding mechanism for Yucca Mountain so that payments to the Nuclear Waste Fund can be used only for the project and be excluded from traditional congressional budget caps. Although the program should remain subject to congressional oversight, Yucca Mountain appropriations should not compete each year for funding with unrelated programs when Congress directed a dedicated funding stream for the project. The industry also believes that it is appropriate and necessary to consider an alternative perspective on the Yucca Mountain project. This alternative would include an extended period for monitoring operation of the repository for up to 300 years after spent fuel is first placed underground. The industry believes that this approach would provide ongoing assurance and greater confidence that the repository is performing as designed, that public safety is assured, and that the environment is protected. It would also permit DOE to apply evolving innovative technologies at the repository. Through this approach, a scientific monitoring program would identify additional scientific information that can be used in repository performance models. The project then could update the models, and make modifications in design and operations as appropriate. Congressional committees like this one can help ensure that DOE does not lose sight of its responsibility for used nuclear fuel management and disposal, as stated by Congress in the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982. The industry fully supports the fundamental need for a repository so that used nuclear fuel and the byproducts of the nation's nuclear weapons program are securely managed in an underground, specially designed facility. World-class science has demonstrated that Yucca Mountain is the best site for that facility. A public works project of this magnitude will inevitably face challenges. Yet, none is insurmountable. DOE and its contractors have made significant progress on the project and will continue to do so as the project enters the licensing phase. Congressional oversight also can play a key role in maintaining and encouraging the stability of the NRC's regulatory process. Such stability is essential for our 103 operating nuclear plants and equally critical in licensing new nuclear power plants. Congress played a key role several years ago in encouraging the NRC to move toward a new oversight process for the nation's nuclear plants, based on quantitative performance indicators and safety significance. Today's reactor oversight process is designed to focus industry and NRC resources on equipment, components and operational issues that have the greatest importance to, and impact on, safety. The NRC and the industry have worked hard to identify and implement realistic security requirements at nuclear power plants. In the three-and-a-half years since 9/11, the NRC has issued a series of requirements to increase security and enhance training for security programs. The industry complied-fully and rapidly. In the days and months following Sept. 11, quick action was required. Orders that implemented needed changes quickly were necessary. Now, we should return to the orderly process of regulating through regulations. The industry has spent more than $1 billion enhancing security since September 2001. We've identified and fixed vulnerabilities. Today, the industry is at the practical limit of what private industry can do to secure our facilities against the terrorist threat. NRC Chairman Nils Diaz and other commissioners have said that the industry has achieved just about everything that can be reasonably achieved by a civilian force. The industry now needs a transition period to stabilize the new security requirements. We need time to incorporate these dramatic changes into our operations and emergency planning programs and to train our employees to the high standards of our industry-and to the appropriately high expectations of the NRC. Both industry and the NRC need congressional oversight to support and encourage this kind of stability. CONCLUSION Electricity generated by America's nuclear power plants over the past half-century has played a key part in our nation's growth and prosperity. Nuclear power produces over 20 percent of the electricity used in the United States today without producing air pollution. As our energy demands continue to grow in years to come, nuclear power should play an even greater role in meeting our energy and environmental needs. The nuclear energy industry is operating its reactors safely and efficiently. The industry is striving to produce more electricity from existing plants. The industry is also developing more efficient, next-generation reactors and exploring ways to build them more cost-effectively. The public sector, including the oversight committees of the U.S. Congress, can help maintain the conditions that ensure Americans will continue to reap the benefits of our operating plants, and create the conditions that will spur investment in America's energy infrastructure, including new nuclear power plants. One important step is passage of comprehensive energy legislation that recognizes nuclear energy's contributions to meeting our growing energy demands, ensuring our nation's energy security and protecting our environment. Equally important, however, is the need to ensure effective and efficient implementation of existing laws, like the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, and to provide federal agencies with the resources and oversight necessary to discharge their statutory responsibilities in the most efficient way possible. The commercial nuclear power sector was born in the United States, and nations around the world continue to look to this nation for leadership in this technology and in the issues associated with nuclear power. Our ability to influence critical international policies in areas like nuclear nonproliferation, for example, depends on our ability to maintain a leadership role in prudent deployment, use and regulation of nuclear energy technologies here at home, in the United States, and on our ability to manage the technological and policy challenges-like waste management-that arise with all advanced technologies.

### SoKo ENR DA

#### We control the impact. US deterrent is necessary to prevent rogue state prolif. That’s Schneider

#### NUQ Bush wanted to do nuclear reprocessing. Didn’t trigger their impacts.

#### No prolif concerns – new tech does not separate the plutonium preventing it from theft or usability.

Lagus, 2005 WISE Intern, ‘5

[Todd, University of Minnesota, WISE, “Reprocessing of Spent Nuclear Fuel: A Policy Analysis”

<http://www.wise-intern.org/journal/2005/lagus.pdf>, RSR]

In the case of the newer UREX+ technology, the long-lived fission products create more steps in weapons deployment. The new technologies for reprocessing including transmutation would not involve separating pure plutonium, but rather a plutonium/ actinide mixture that would increase the toxicity of the material and protect it from theft and handling. The International Atomic Energy Agency’s (IAEA) standard for self protection requires 1 Sievert/hr (100 rems/hr) at one meter. Five Sieverts is a median lethal dose. 45 This technology again has been demonstrated in laboratories, but a great deal of research is still underway. The actinides also contaminate the plutonium such that it would not be usable as a weapon without sophisticated chemical separation technologies, which few countries, if any, possess. 46 Some argue that there are many other weapons options which are cheaper and easier to fabricate should an enemy decide to strike. 47

#### NUQ – US opened up a high level nuclear weapons waste reprocessing plant in the 1990s that didn’t cause a breakout. Impact is empirically denied.

#### They have the DA backwards – refusal to grant reprocessing permissions leads to South Korean breakout and relations collapse.

Yurman, Staff Writer, ‘12

[Dan, “Revisiting Reprocessing in South Korea”, ANS Nuclear Café, 8-2-12,

<http://ansnuclearcafe.org/2012/08/02/revisiting-reprocessing-in-south-korea/>, RSR]

Comes now the request by the South Korean government, first aired in October 2010, to revise the bilateral cooperation treaty with the U.S. It has been in place for more than 40 years and it is a cornerstone of U.S./South Korean diplomatic relations. Many specialists in the field of nonproliferation see a “hard and fast” policy against any expansion of uranium enrichment and spent fuel reprocessing as a key to stopping states like North Korea from pursuing these activities. That strategy hasn’t worked and, as a result, South Korea wants relief from the restriction in the now-decades-old treaty. Negotiations over changes to the treaty have been going on since last December, but appear to be stalemated around a key set of issues. It is a delicate dance, as diplomats like to say, because if the U.S. leans too heavily on South Korea, it could sour relations between the two countries and spawn nationalist sentiment that might lead to a nuclear weapons program. Since the 1950s, South Korea has depended on the U.S. nuclear arsenal as a shield against aggression from its neighbor to the north.

#### US-SoKo relations k2 regional stability and global security

Clinton 10 [Hillary Rodham Clinton, “America’s Engagement in the Asia-Pacific”, October 28, 2010, http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/10/150141.htm]

This year also marked a milestone with another ally: the 60th anniversary of the start of the Korean War, which Secretary Gates and I commemorated in Seoul this past summer. And in two weeks, our presidents will meet in Seoul when President Obama travels there for the G-20 summit. Our two countries have stood together in the face of threats and provocative acts from North Korea, including the tragic sinking of the Cheonan by a North Korean torpedo. We will continue to coordinate closely with both Seoul and Tokyo in our efforts to make clear to North Korea there is only one path that promises the full benefits of engagement with the outside world – a full, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization.The alliance between South Korea and the United States is a lynchpin of stability and security in the region and now even far beyond. We are working together in Afghanistan, where a South Korean reconstruction team is at work in Parwan Province; in the Gulf of Aden, where Korean and U.S. forces are coordinating anti-piracy missions. And of course, beyond our military cooperation, our countries enjoy a vibrant economic relationship, which is why our two Presidents have called for resolving the outstanding issues related to the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement by the time of the G-20 meeting in Seoul.

#### **Revival of U.S. nuclear programs, particularly reprocessing, is key to promote nuclear nonproliferation.**

Bengelsdorf 7(Harold, consultant and former director of energy department offices, “THE U.S. DOMESTIC CIVIL NUCLEAR INFRASTRUCTURE AND U.S. NONPROLIFERATION POLICY”, http://www.nuclearcompetitiveness.org/images/COUNCIL\_WHITE\_PAPER\_Final.pdf)

U.S. nuclear exports can be used to influence other states’ nuclear programs through the nonproliferation commitments that the U.S. requires. The U.S. has so-called consent rights over the enrichment, reprocessing and alteration in form or content of the nuclear materials that it has provided to other countries, as well as to the nuclear materials that are produced from the nuclear materials and equipment that the U.S. has supplied. Further, the ability of the U.S. to develop improved and advanced nuclear technologies will depend on its ability to provide consistent and vigorous support for nuclear R&D programs that will enjoy solid bipartisan political support in order that they can be sustained from one administration to another. As the U.S. Government expends taxpayer funds on the Nuclear Power 2010 program, the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership, the Generation IV initiative and other programs, it should consider the benefit to the U.S. industrial base and to U.S. non-proliferation posture as criteria in project design and source selection where possible. Finally, the ability of the United States to resolve its own difficulties in managing its spent fuel and nuclear wastes will be crucial to maintaining the credibility of the U.S. nuclear power program and will be vital to implementing important new nonproliferation initiatives designed to discourage the spread of sensitive nuclear facilities to other countries.

### Advantage CP

#### Perm do both.

#### Doesn’t solve the aff:

#### a.) Advantage one. Even if we adopt the recommendations, we would still have the waste sitting around. Attack would be inevitable. Also, their cards never say that this would make the waste safe. High threshold for their argument.

#### b.) Advantage two. Does not solve problem of uranium shortages in the SQUO. That’s the key IL.

#### Countries won’t sign on – fuel banks impose constraints beyond the NPT and kill the economics of domestic nuclear power.

Toukan, Chairman of Jordan’s Atomic Energy Commission, 8-29

[Khaled, “For a fuel bank, fairness is paramount”, Bulletin of Atomic Scientists,

<http://thebulletin.org/web-edition/roundtables/nuclear-fuel-bank-good-investment#rt9301>, RSR]

Second, some states might be reluctant to sign up for an international fuel bank out of concern that doing so would impose requirements on them beyond those mandated by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Nations asked to impose a moratorium on establishing new nuclear facilities for enrichment and spent fuel reprocessing might well perceive such restrictions as infringements on their sovereign rights. (It is my understanding that existing facilities would be allowed to run through the end of their lifetimes.) After all, if a state has become a party to the NPT, complied with all the requirements of the treaty, and acquiesced to a Safeguards Agreement that subjects its nuclear facilities and activities to international monitoring, why should it relinquish its right to carry out the various processes associated with the fuel cycle? Third, signatories to the treaty may feel that some proposed fuel-bank requirements, such as that customer nations forfeit their right to domestic uranium enrichment, interfere with their ability to develop a self-sustaining, economically feasible nuclear energy program. Jordan, my own country, has pursued nuclear power in order to achieve greater energy independence, secure a more reliable source of fuel, utilize indigenous uranium deposits, and avoid the high costs of generating electricity from hydrocarbons. Requiring a state such as Jordan to forego domestic enrichment and to rely instead on international suppliers for enrichment services asks it to forfeit significant opportunities for economic growth.

#### Peak oil is coming and kills economic recovery – outweighs resiliency and safeguards.

Zakaria 12 (Fareed, host of CNN foreign affairs program, “Zakaria: Why oil prices keep rising”, http://globalpublicsquare.blogs.cnn.com/2012/03/09/zakaria-why-oil-prices-keep-rising/)

The rising price of oil is the single most serious threat to the global economic recovery, the U.S. economy and President Obama's reelection prospects. Right now, we are beginning to move into a pretty broad-based recovery. Manufacturing is rising for the first time in 25 years. Technology firms are doing very well. Retail is picking up. The green shoots of the housing recovery are emerging and that's very important because housing has led almost every recovery since World War II. . But all the while that you have this economic good news, you are beginning to see oil prices rise quite substantially. They're up about 15 percent over the last few months. And that could put a damper on all this good news. Why is the price of oil rising? It's happening for one reason, principally and that is geopolitical risk. There are fears of a war with Iran and fears that crippling sanctions on Iran would cut down Iranian oil exports almost entirely. If you look at demand for oil, it's just not that strong. Much of the world is in slower economic times than before. In January 2007, oil was $50 a barrel. It's now $110 a barrel. This doesn't make any economic sense unless you factor in geopolitical risk. So for oil prices to decline, there must be some resolution to the tensions with Iran. But there is a broader problem, which is that there just isn't that much oil on the market and demand is going to begin to rise again as many countries come out of their recessions and into recoveries. There isn't that much of what's called "spare capacity" - the ability to increase production quickly. The only ones who have it are Saudi Arabia and they are operating at their limits in some ways. So there are economic fundamentals that explain why oil prices are high - but not why they are so high. The reason they are so high is really Iran, Iran and Iran.

#### Economic collapse results in extinction.

Lachman and Auslin 09 [Desmond: fellow at AEI, Michael: scholar at AEI “The Global Economy Unravels” March 6, 2009 American Enterprise Institute http://www.aei.org/article/economics/international-economy/the-global-economy-unravels/]

What do these trends mean in the short and medium term? The Great Depression showed how social and global chaos followed hard on economic collapse. The mere fact that parliaments across the globe, from America to Japan, are unable to make responsible, economically sound recovery plans suggests that they do not know what to do and are simply hoping for the least disruption. Equally worrisome is the adoption of more statist economic programs around the globe, and the concurrent decline of trust in free-market systems. The threat of instability is a pressing concern. China, until last year the world's fastest growing economy, just reported that 20 million migrant laborers lost their jobs. Even in the flush times of recent years, China faced upward of 70,000 labor uprisings a year. A sustained downturn poses grave and possibly immediate threats to Chinese internal stability. The regime in Beijing may be faced with a choice of repressing its own people or diverting their energies outward, leading to conflict with China's neighbors. Russia, an oil state completely dependent on energy sales, has had to put down riots in its Far East as well as in downtown Moscow. Vladimir Putin's rule has been predicated on squeezing civil liberties while providing economic largesse. If that devil's bargain falls apart, then wide-scale repression inside Russia, along with a continuing threatening posture toward Russia's neighbors, is likely. Even apparently stable societies face increasing risk and the threat of internal or possibly external conflict. As Japan's exports have plummeted by nearly 50%, one-third of the country's prefectures have passed emergency economic stabilization plans. Hundreds of thousands of temporary employees hired during the first part of this decade are being laid off. Spain's unemployment rate is expected to climb to nearly 20% by the end of 2010; Spanish unions are already protesting the lack of jobs, and the specter of violence, as occurred in the 1980s, is haunting the country. Meanwhile, in Greece, workers have already taken to the streets. Europe as a whole will face dangerously increasing tensions between native citizens and immigrants, largely from poorer Muslim nations, who have increased the labor pool in the past several decades. Spain has absorbed five million immigrants since 1999, while nearly 9% of Germany's residents have foreign citizenship, including almost 2 million Turks. The xenophobic labor strikes in the U.K. do not bode well for the rest of Europe. A prolonged global downturn, let alone a collapse, would dramatically raise tensions inside these countries. Couple that with possible protectionist legislation in the United States, unresolved ethnic and territorial disputes in all regions of the globe and a loss of confidence that world leaders actually know what they are doing. The result may be a series of small explosions that coalesce into a big bang.’’

#### Reprocessing solves peak oil – increases nuclear power’s share of the market.

Szabo, J.D., George Washington University Law School; Financial Analyst, United States

Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), ‘10

[Aaron, 2010, “Reprocessing: The Future Of Nuclear Waste”, Temple Journal of Science, Technology & Environmental Law, Vol. 29, No. 2, RSR]

Energy independence has been a longstanding concern for the United States. Beginning with President Nixon's promise to make the United States energy independent by the end of the 1970s,1'5 every subsequent president has sought to move the country away from dependence on foreign countries for energy.' 52 Although the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 took a step toward energy independence and increased national security, the United States is currently more dependent on other countries for energy than ever before. Last year, the United States imported about half of its oil and 40.7 million pounds of uranium.15 3 According to President Obama, America's dependence on oil is one of the most serious threats that our nation has faced. It bankrolls dictators, pays for nuclear proliferation and funds both sides of our struggle against terrorism. It puts the American people at the mercy of shifting gas prices, stifles innovation, and sets back our ability to compete. Increasing the United States nuclear supply by creating a closed-loop fuel cycle can significantly decrease the United States' dependence on oil and fuel from other countries and provide the United States with more stability and independence from possible hostile countries.

### Farm Bill Politics DA

#### Farm bill will not pass – party divisions.

Berg 11/4 (Rebecca, Capitol Hill reporter, http://www.buzzfeed.com/rebeccaberg/as-congress-prepares-to-return-to-washington-farm)

WASHINGTON, D.C. — For all the lofty rhetoric about the need for bipartisanship and cooperation that has marked the closing weeks of the 2012 election, lawmakers will return to work later this month to face the exact same sort of gridlock that has paralyzed Washington for two years.¶ And no other issue typifies that dysfunction like the reauthorization of the nation's agriculture and food stamp assistance bill, a five-year measure that remains mired in intraparty disagreement among Republicans.¶ During negotiations prior to recess, fiscal conservatives opposed spending for farm subsidies, while farm-state Republicans insisted that the money was necessary.¶ That stalemate was not broken, and farm-state lawmakers, who hoped a compromise would be reached prior to recess in September, were forced to return empty-handed to their districts and states. Meanwhile, the five-year bill expired at the beginning of October.¶ Since then, even as negotiations have continued on other topics — the Gang of Six held early discussions about reducing the federal deficit, for example — the farm bill has languished, according to congressional staffers of both parties, and lawmakers are no closer to a compromise.

#### Farm bill won’t pass – fiscal cliff thumps.

Ellis 11/8 (Steve Ellis is vice president of Taxpayers for Common Sense and Scott Faber is vice president of government affairs at Environmental Working Group., http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/economy-a-budget/266935-pass-a-fiscally-responsible-farm-bill-extension)

It’s too late for Congress to pass a good farm bill this year. The upcoming lame duck session of the 112th Congress will have its hands full dealing with the “fiscal cliff” and should focus on issues that simply cannot wait. Spending what little legislative time remains on a nearly trillion-dollar, multi-year bill that would boost taxpayer subsidies for agriculture – a sector that booked record profits of $122 billion this year – would be irresponsible. Congress must instead pass a one-year farm bill extension, fully paid for with modest cuts to subsidies for those who don’t need taxpayer support, while concentrating on the truly pressing issues facing the nation.¶ Far more important problems must be resolved during the waning days of this Congress. Unless lawmakers act, the imminent expiration of the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts and the Alternative Minimum Tax “patch” will hit hard at the family budgets of millions of Americans, and on Jan. 2 across-the-board cuts will lop more than $100 billion from both defense and non-defense spending. The indiscriminate cuts will come just as states devastated by Superstorm Sandy come looking for additional disaster relief and federal flood insurance must be expanded to cover claims.¶ The 112th Congress will need to accomplish more in its last two months than it has managed to do in two years. It had 22 months to pass a farm bill. The House never even debated one. Lawmakers should pass the baton to the 113th Congress and instead approve a responsible one-year farm bill extension that does not ignore the country’s fiscal crisis or the realities of a 21st century economy. This will allow the new Congress time to address important and unresolved agriculture policy issues in an open, transparent and fiscally responsible way.

#### Funding now. Worthington ev. says subsidies now. Even if no new reactors, there’s already the perception of Obama pushing.

#### Plan popular in Congress – popular among senators like Graham.

Ling 2009 (“Is the solution to the U.S. nuclear waste problem in France?” By KATHERINE LING, ClimateWire, http://www.nytimes.com/cwire/2009/05/18/18climatewire-is-the-solution-to-the-us-nuclear-waste-prob-12208.html?pagewanted=all Published: May 18, 2009) RCM

South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham (R) earlier this month said he would like to bring such an "energy park" to the Savannah River Site -- where Areva is building the MOX facility -- and plans to speak to House leadership and President Obama on the matter. Reprocessing is moving elsewhere on the congressional front, including in draft legislation from Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.), chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, that would study the feasibility of a reprocessing facility as a part of comprehensive energy legislation. Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), the committee's ranking member, said she will propose an alternative nuclear provision to provide cost-sharing incentives for two reprocessing facilities and other new nuclear reactor incentives.

#### Graham is a dealmaker

Politico 11/7 (http://www.politico.com/news/stories/1112/83458.html)

Still, there’s no mistaking the loss is anything short of a dramatic disappointment for Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and Texas Sen. John Cornyn, the chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee who is poised to become the No. 2 Republican in the chamber.¶ After failing to return to the majority for the second straight cycle, both men will now have to navigate their own potentially tough reelection bids in 2014, as will a number of would-be GOP deal-makers, such as Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Saxby Chambliss of Georgia. The same tea party influence that has proven to be powerful in GOP primaries could haunt senators with no president in the White House strong enough to clear their respective fields. McConnell will have to balance the need for accomplishments with the desire to protect his conference from being jammed by Democrats.

#### No link – no reason Obama gets associated with the plan

#### Plan solves the link argument – their card talks about Congress hating nuclear power because of the waste.

#### Plan key to winning over McCain.

Fahey 9 (New Fuel Source: Nuclear Waste?, Jonathan Fahey, 07.22.09, 06:00 AM EDT <http://www.forbes.com/2009/07/21/nuclear-waste-energy-technology-breakthroughs-nuclear.html> ) RCM

But the politics of reprocessing have been heating up. Pro-nuclear energy Sens. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., pushed Energy Secretary Steven Chu on the issue in the spring. McCain and others suggest one big reason new nuclear reactors are not being built is the uncertainty around where the spent fuel is going to go.

#### McCain is key to the agenda

CQ Weekly 8 (Rebecca Adams, 11/8/08 (“CQ Weekly Vantage Point: Farewell or a Future? McCain Still Has Role as Bipartisan Dealmaker,” LN)

A likelier scenario, observers say, is thatMcCain will revert to his role as a bipartisan broker of compromise — and, depending on Barack Obama ’s enthusiasm for courting the aid of his presidential rival, McCain could serve as a critical liaison to Senate moderates as the new administration works with a Senate majority just shy of the 60-vote, filibuster-resistant supermajority. That role would permit McCain to bolster the bipartisan credentials he so frequently advertised in his campaign and to refine his legacy in case he decides to retire from public life in 2010, when his fourth term ends and he turns 74. “He can only be a leader for the moderates,” says GOP strategist John Feehery, who worked for 18 years on Capitol Hill. “But at the end of the day, moderates will hold all the power.” Obama could have reason to solicit his support on any number of policy fronts, including the economy, national security (where McCain wields considerable clout as the top Republican on the Armed Services Committee) and the curtailment of global warming — all likely high-priority items on the next president’s agenda. And McCain would probably be keen to add to his already extensive resume of bipartisan collaboration on questions such as nominations to the federal bench, immigration and campaign finance. He probably would not be able to bring major factions of the Senate GOP to the bargaining table, but he could broker agreements on somekey issues with influential moderates such as Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Mel Martinez of Florida. A home-state GOP colleague in the House, John Shadegg , notes that McCain is in closer accord with Democrats than fellow Republicans in some instances, including on legislative proposals curbing global warming. “That’s an area in which there is the potential that Sen. McCain could agree with the president-elect, but I don’t know that McCain can bring along the minority,” Shadegg says. “Given the state of the economy, there will be lots of concerns.” Shadegg predicts that McCain will face minimal opposition if he runs for re-election in two years. But several McCain associates think he may be edging toward retirement. In either case, former McCain aides say he does not intend to fade into the senatorial background as Democrat John Kerry of Massachusetts did after losing the presidency in 2004. “It will be very important that someone in a leadership position in the Republican Party send the signal that they are willing to work with President Obama. McCain is the logical choice,” says Mark McKinnon, a former media adviser for President Bush and for McCain through much of the primary season. “I think Sen. McCain’s interest after this election will be not any political ambition but a genuine desire to make his last chapter in Washington all about bipartisan healing.” The former GOP nominee will be focused on “settling differences rather than settling scores,” McKinnon says. Dan Schnur, a spokesman for McCain in the 2000 election and director of the Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics at the University of Southern California, says there is no reason why McCain wouldn’t pick up where he left off in the Senate. “He could be a very valuable ally to President Obama in building bipartisan supportfor at least some of the administration’s priorities, starting with national security and political reform,” Schnur says. “He spent a lot of years building a reputation as someone who works across the party aisle. He has a strong incentive to spend his last years in the Senate reinforcing that image.”

#### Obama won’t get the credit – will not be seen as involved in the plan.

#### Cantor and House Republicans support nuclear power

Politico 11 (Cantor: nuclear power 'essential' for U.S. energy needs, http://www.politico.com/blogs/glennthrush/0311/Cantor\_nuclear\_power\_essential\_for\_US\_energy\_needs.html)

House Majority Leader Eric Cantor defended nuclear energy production Monday, after a series of explosions at a nuclear reactor in Japan, calling it “essential” to meeting American energy needs. The problems at the Fukushima plant 150 miles north of Tokyo have reignited the debate over the safety of nuclear energy production. Cantor told reporters Monday that the tsunami that ravaged Japan last week is to blame, not the reactor itself. “As far as we know, this is the result of a tsunami,” he said. “Nuclear power is an essential mix of the energy economy in this country.” The tsunami caused technical problems at the Japanese plant, which left nuclear rods exposed, raising the specter of Chernobyl-style meltdown. The timing couldn’t have been worse for House Republican leaders, who demanded last week that President Barack Obama speed up approval of new nuclear energy facilities.

#### House resembles the biggest stumbling block to Obama’s agenda.

Politico 11/7 (http://www.nj.com/us-politics/index.ssf/2012/11/washington\_wakes\_up\_to\_deja\_vu.html)

The result: The House Republican Conference will be even more conservative and the House Democratic Caucus will be even more liberal come January. In the Senate, Democrats shed their most conservative member with the retirement of Nelson and may be emboldened by the victories of unapologetic liberals like Elizabeth Warren in Massachusetts and Tammy Baldwin in Wisconsin.¶ For Obama, it all means that the journey he discussed in his victory speech Tuesday night is far from over and its path remains unclear. He was ahead in the popular vote by about 2.4 million after a night of counting and had put 303 electoral votes in his column with Florida still not decided. But the president lost states he won in 2008 -- North Carolina and Indiana -- and took home fewer electoral votes than the 365 he won four years ago. Voters, boxed in a bit by redistricting in the House and the fact that only one-third of the Senate is up for grabs every two years, did not give Obama a new Congress to work with.

#### Logical policymaker can do both – CP intrinsic test of USFG action. This justifies intrinsicness tests of the DA. As a congress person, you can vote aff and pass a fiscal cliff compromise.

#### Winners win – capital is perpetually renewable.

**Pascal**, Independent Business and Management Consultant in Phoenix, **‘9**

[Marc, “Obama’s Only Priority: Get Re-Elected”, 10-5-9, The Moderate Voice,

http://themoderatevoice.com/48571/obama%E2%80%99s-only-priority-get-re-elected/]

Many political leaders incorrectly confuse political capital with financial capital. The first is a perpetually renewable commodity if used correctly and the latter is always finite no matter how much is amassed. One cannot hoard political capital for some future battle that may or may not come. It grows and shrinks directly as one uses it, and it directly mirrors political fights taken and avoided. Actually winning on certain core issues and major legislative battles helps increase political capital for future use. But not using political capital causes it to dissolve rapidly. Talking too much and never getting anything accomplished is a good recipe to dissipate valuable political capital.

## 1AR

### SoKo ENR Reprocessing DA

#### No prolif – fears overblown, other countries, empirics, and new tech.

Lee, 2010 Wise Intern at the American Nuclear Society, ‘12

[Nathan, WISE, “Sustainability Of U.S. Nuclear Energy: Waste Management And¶ The Question Of Reprocessing”, 2012,

<http://www.wise-intern.org/journal/2010/NathanLeeWISE2010.pdf>, RCM]

No matter how much some nuclear energy proponents might play down the dual purpose of nuclear technologies, as long as the fundamental driving force remains the splitting of the atom, so too will the risk of proliferating those technologies for use in an atom-splitting bomb. Seeking a proliferation-proof nuclear energy policy is futile; instead, a smart policy should aim to maximize proliferation resistance under the given circumstances.¶ In the case of reprocessing used nuclear fuel, the principal concern is over the isolation of plutonium in the product stream, which could then be converted for use in a bomb. Unprocessed used nuclear fuel is sufficiently secure against physical enemy intrusion due to the multiplicity of highly radioactive components it contains. Since plutonium itself is not highly radioactive, it becomes much easier to approach after separation. Although newer reprocessing technologies leave different radioactive contaminants in the product stream to offset the loss in proliferation resistance, none of them remain significantly “self-protecting” by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) standards (Fig. 10).¶ There are several avenues by which plutonium proliferation could occur. A terrorist group or rogue state could steal the plutonium from the product stream of another country’s reprocessing plant or could acquire the technology itself on the black market to isolate plutonium themselves. Another risk involves a state legally operating a reprocessing facility but illegally diverting plutonium from the product stream or operating a clandestine plant in parallel. Any of these scenarios could occur for all the reprocessing technologies considered. While the risk levels for one-pass Pu recycling and full actinide recycling would vary based on total material flow, amount of transport required, technology safeguards, and additional factors, the fundamental issue of plutonium isolation is the same.¶ President Carter’s decision to ban reprocessing in the U.S. was ostensibly motivated by this issue. It was supposed to deter other nuclear countries from reprocessing as well, thereby bolstering global nonproliferation. However, they did not follow suit; several countries now operate reprocessing facilities. Consequently, the proliferation ramifications of implementing reprocessing in the United States in the 21st century are no longer the same as perceived in the early stages of the nuclear industry. Not only has the international deterrent argument been largely discredited, but the marginal impact in the global proliferation risk from initiating reprocessing in the U.S. would be much less substantial now that there already exists an established international reprocessing market. Furthermore, by entering this market, some argue that the U.S. might actually slow the dissemination of reprocessing technology by providing the service to other countries that wish to reprocess their used nuclear fuel, making domestic development less economical.38¶ However U.S. reprocessing would affect the global interplay, by far the most critical factor for deciding whether to reprocess domestically would be our own ability to prevent direct proliferation. In this arena, the U.S. has proven over the last sixty years that it can effectively manage and safeguard large plutonium stockpiles and dangerous technologies.39 Moreover, improvements are already underway in utilizing real-time monitoring of material flows to detect and prevent proliferation attempts.40

#### Proliferation concerns are empirically denied, and purification of spent fuel is impractical.

Klein, Associate Director of The Energy Institute at the University of Texas at Austin, 11 (Dale, Spent Nuclear Fuel Is An Abundant Source of Energy, 21st Century Science & Technology, 21 February 2011, http://www.21stcenturysciencetech.com/Articles\_2011/Spring-2011/Spent\_Nuclear\_Energy.pdf, da 8-23-12)

Now, more than three decades later, six nations have major ¶ ¶ commitments to reprocessing their spent fuel. The arguments ¶ ¶ against reprocessing as a proliferation concern are not compelling and obviously, other nations interested in extracting ¶ ¶ the energy value from their spent fuel do not align with U.S. ¶ ¶ policy.¶ ¶ A typical commercial nuclear power reactor will generate ¶ ¶ about 20 tonnes of spent fuel every year. Contained in that ¶ ¶ spent fuel is about 200 kilograms of reactor-grade plutonium. ¶ ¶ Often misunderstood, or misrepresented by opponents to recycling, the isotopic mixture of reactor-grade plutonium makes it ¶ ¶ unsuitable for nuclear weapons.¶ ¶ Weapons-grade plutonium is approximately 95 percent Pu-¶ ¶ 239, whereas reactor-grade is only about 50 percent Pu-239. ¶ ¶ The cost and complexity of the technologies required to purify ¶ ¶ reactor grade to weapons grade makes it impractical for use in ¶ ¶ nuclear weapons.¶ ¶ In fact, we know of, or strongly believe, that nine nations ¶ ¶ have developed nuclear weapons. Looking historically at the ¶ ¶ origins of the fissile materials used to develop those weapons, we know that the sources were either through enrichment of uranium or with the use of graphite or heavy-water-moderated production reactors, but not commercial ¶ ¶ reactors.¶ ¶ Israel, India, Pakistan, and North Korea are believed to have ¶ ¶ produced weapons-grade plutonium from the diversion of ¶ ¶ their heavy water research reactors to irradiate target materials. No nation has ever tried to produce nuclear weapons ¶ ¶ from the type of spent fuel discharged by commercial power ¶ ¶ reactors.