NY State Decommissioning Oversight Board Legislation Update: Over the past few months, despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, this groundbreaking legislation to create Decommissioning Oversight Boards (DOBs) for the four operating nuclear power plants in New York has gained widespread support. Thank you to the many Clearwater members and supporters who took action and called your State Legislators. Bills A.10236 and S.8154, sponsored by AM Sandy Galef and Sen. Pete Harckham respectively, will establish such Boards, with a core of eleven State agencies who each have specific areas of jurisdiction, as well as input from twelve community members that are specific to each reactor community. With Indian Point’s final reactor shutting down in April 2021, it is urgent that this legislation be enacted this session. Given the environmental, public health, and economic implications of the decommissioning, this is an issue that affects all New Yorkers, whether or not there is a facility in your district.

Since this legislation was introduced and considered in committees, there are now: 27 co-sponsors in the Assembly: Buchwald, Seawright, Hunter, Colton, Abinanti, Thiele, Dinowitz, Jaffee, Carroll, Fahy, Gottfried, McMahon, Cahill, Mosley, Montesano, B. Miller, Jacobson, Paulin, Barron, Dickens, Sayegh, Ortiz, L. Rosenthal, Englebright, Wallace, Magnarelli and Simon, and 7 co-sponsors in the Senate: Carlucci, Metzger, Krueger, May, Mayer, Skoufis, and Kaminsky.

Attached please find and read over the detailed Bill Memo (link to pdf) that Clearwater is now providing, which has had input from many of our colleagues. It addresses the various questions and concerns that may have been raised during this process. Also attached is a very compelling letter of support from the Westchester County Legislature (link to pdf). There are still two more hurdles to overcome to see this bill become Law: one is to ensure there is a vote in both houses this year, if possible, and that, if passed, Governor Cuomo signs it into law.

Action: Please call your NYS Senator, Assembly member, and the Governor’s office.

Please join Clearwater by taking this action, which is urgently needed. The NYS Legislature and Governor Cuomo need to get as many calls as possible, this week. Please call your NYS Assembly Member and Senator to urge support for the NYS Decommissioning Oversight Board Legislation today or tomorrow. There will likely be a special session of the Legislature and they are only likely to act on bills they know the Governor will sign, so his support is needed as well.

We have worked for 3 years to get this bill passed. In the current crises it can get lost in the shuffle, but we can't let that happen. Please call your NYS Legislator and Governor Cuomo NOW and leave a message.

PLEASE CALL AND ACT NOW!!!

Support the Passage of New York State Decommissioning Oversight Board: Clearwater strongly supports the passage of S.8158/A.10236, sponsored by NYS Senator Peter Harckham and Assembly Member Sandy Galef, to create a statewide oversight board to protect the financial and other interests of NY State and ratepayers during the decommissioning of nuclear energy facilities, starting with Indian Point.
#1) Call your NY State Senator or Assembly Member

Assembly Bill:  
https://assembly.ny.gov/leg/?default_fld=&leg_video=1&bn=A10236&term=2019&Summary=Y&Text=Y

Senate Bill:  https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2019/s8154

Find your NYS Senator:  https://www.nysenate.gov/find-my-senator
Find your NYS Assembly Member:  https://www.nyassembly.gov/mem/search/

Call-in Script:  
“Hello, my name is [Your Name]. I am a resident of [name of your municipality] and I am calling to urge the [Senator/Assemblymember] to support [S8154/A10236]. We need Decommissioning Oversight Boards in New York to protect the best interests of our state and our communities. Please cosponsor if you haven’t already and pass this important legislation THIS YEAR. Thank you.”

A list of NYS Legislators with phone numbers and emails is available upon request to matt@clearwater.org.

You are encouraged to call as many NYS Legislators and Governor Cuomo as you can. They need to hear from us to take action. If they are already a sponsor or cosponsor, please THANK them and urge passage this year.

#2) Call Governor Cuomo at 518-474-8390 today.  (Press 2, then 1 to leave a message -- without having to listen to the two recordings).  

Urge him to support the bill for the NYS DECOMMISSIONING OVERSIGHT BOARD FOR INDIAN POINT. The NYS DOB will also apply to the reactors in western NY and will help protect those communities and NY rate and taxpayers as well, but those plants are not slated to close for another 10 years. With IP-2 closed and Holtec's License Transfer Application pending, having a NYS Decommissioning Oversight Board for Indian Point is urgent.

Governor Cuomo has worked hard to close Indian Point, which is no longer financially viable, to reduce its danger to surrounding communities and to the greater NYC metropolitan area.  Now he needs to finish the job with a first in the nation State Oversight Board.

Here is a script, if you need one.

“Governor Cuomo, My name is ____________. I’m a constituent from ____________ and a member of Hudson River Sloop Clearwater. I’m calling you to ask you to support New York State’s Decommissioning Oversight Boards S.8158/A.10236 to protect the best interests of our state and its nuclear reactor communities. Thank you for your service.”

We are close to the finish line for NYS DOB legislation. We need EVERYONE to make calls today and this week -- as many as you can. If your NYS Legislators are on Board, please call and stress the urgency.

We need EVERYONE to call the Governor's office. The Legislature is only likely to vote on bills the governor supports this year because Covid-19 threw a monkey wrench into works.

Please call Governor Cuomo at 518-474-8390 today.

Next year will be too late to make a difference for Indian Point. It is still good legislation, but we need it to be enacted now.

Thank you for taking action!