



July 9, 2020

Andrea Stewart Cousins
New York State Senate Majority Leader
Jamaal Bailey
New York State Senator, 26th District
Alessandra Biaggi
New York State Senator, 34th District
Shelley Mayer
New York State Senator, 37th District
David Carlucci
New York State Senator, 38th District
Peter Harckham
New York State Senator, 40th District

Gary Pretlow
New York State Assembly Member, 89th District
Amy Paulin
New York State Assembly Member, 88th District
Nader Sayegh
New York State Assembly Member, 90th District
Steve Otis
New York State Assembly Member, 91st District
Thomas Abinanti
New York State Assembly Member, 92nd District
David Buchwald
New York State Assembly Member, 93rd District
Kevin Byrne
New York State Assembly Member, 94th District
Sandra Galef
New York State Assembly Member, 95th District

Honorable Members of the Westchester County New York State Delegation:

**RE: Support for Nuclear Generating Station Decommissioning Oversight Board
SB 8154 and AB 10236**

Honorable Members of the Westchester County New York State Delegation:

We, the undersigned Westchester County legislators, urge you to support pending legislation to create an independent nuclear decommissioning oversight board.

Dangerous business. Decommissioning a nuclear power plant entails breaking apart and shipping highly radioactive plant components, addressing radioactive site contamination and managing, storing and shipping spent fuel inventories. It is complicated, dangerous, and will take decades to complete. Spent fuel remains radioactive for up to 250,000 years – that’s how long this nuclear material can pose a risk to the public. Indian Point has some of the highest concentrations of lethal radioactivity on earth, some of which have leaked into groundwater and the Hudson River.

Questionable practices. Indian Point is set to close down next year, and the current owner, Entergy, is expected to transfer the plant to Holtec International to complete the decommissioning process. Holtec and its subsidiaries are moving forward with very little oversight. They are structured as LLCs and can go bankrupt without damaging their parent companies. These shell companies are woefully underfunded in light of expected cost overruns

and rely too heavily on the Decommissioning Trust Fund, which was paid for by electricity customers for many decades. To make matters worse, Holtec has been plagued by allegations that it cuts corners at the expense of public safety, environmental protections and fair labor practices.

Oversight needed. Nuclear decommissioning is an industry with few rules and little oversight. Without proper oversight, Holtec (or any successor) may not take seriously the procedural and safety requirements that are necessary to shut down Indian Point and protect the spent fuel rods on site. With so much at stake, New York has a vested interest to ensure that it is done safely, efficiently, and completely. We cannot trust the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to advocate for New Yorkers' interests. An independent oversight board would supervise disbursement of the Decommissioning Trust Fund to make sure that New Yorkers aren't left footing the cleanup bill.

Essential legislation. The pending bills in the New York State Senate and Assembly (SB 8154 and AB 10236) would create the first-ever Nuclear Generating Station Decommissioning Oversight Board, to be composed of relevant State agencies, diverse stakeholders, and concerned citizens. All board members will be financially independent with no ties to the owners or operators of the plant. Their mandate will be to preserve public trust and safety. A decommissioning oversight board will bring transparency and accountability to ensure that decisions are made that are in the best interest of New Yorkers. The proposed legislation will bring together the necessary resources and expertise to effectively oversee the entire process, including legal, financial, environmental, health and economic concerns.

We urge you to adopt this necessary legislation to protect the health and welfare of Westchester residents, the Hudson Valley region and all New Yorkers.

Sincerely,



Chairman Benjamin Boykin
Legislator, 5th District



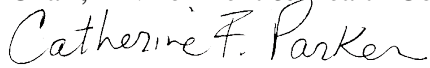
Majority Leader MaryJane Shimsky
Legislator, 12th District



Minority Leader Margaret Cunzio
Legislator, 3rd District



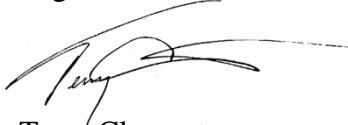
Nancy Barr
Legislator, 6th District
Chair, Environment & Health Committee



Catherine Parker
Legislator, 7th District
Chair, Economic Development,
Planning & Energy Committee



Damon Maher
Legislator, 10th District



Terry Clements
Legislator, 11th District



David Tubiolo
Legislator, 14th District



Jose Alvarado
Legislator, 17th District



Vice Chair Alfreda Williams
Legislator, 8th District



Colin Smith
Legislator, 1st District



Majority Whip Christopher Johnson
Legislator, 16th District



Kitley Covill
Legislator, 2nd District



Vedat Gashi
Legislator, 4th District



Catherine Borgia
Legislator, 9th District



Lyndon Williams
Legislator, 13th District



Ruth Walter
Legislator, 15th District