

June 29, 2020

**S.8154 (Harckham) / A.10236 (Galef)**

## **SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION**

This legislation will establish New York state decommissioning oversight boards for nuclear power plants.

## **STATEMENT OF SUPPORT**

Alliance for a Green Economy is a statewide education and policy organization working toward a just and affordable transition to 100% renewable energy in all sectors, including electricity, heating, and transportation. Alliance for a Green Economy strongly supports the passage of S.8154 (Harckham) / A.10236 (Galef) for the following reasons:

- **Aging nuclear power plants pose ongoing safety and health threats.** Threats include an inventory of highly radioactive, spent nuclear fuel, and obsolete, degraded equipment. The complex task of decommissioning must be managed with expert oversight to protect the health of the local communities and the surrounding environment.
- **New York State needs a Decommissioning Oversight Board now.** The complex task of decommissioning is already needed for Indian Point, the first reactor of which retired in April of this year. The second reactor there will close next year. Additionally, two other nuclear reactors in NYS are 50 years old, and their operating licenses will expire in 2029. Establishing a community oversight structure will ensure all nuclear plants in NYS can be decommissioned with community input.
- **Decommissioning is a very long and expensive process.** Inadequate oversight can result in depletion of funds prior to the completion of the decommissioning process. Fund depletion would leave NY taxpayers to pick up the costs. New York must watchdog the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to properly oversee decommissioning of nuclear reactors by establishing its own Decommissioning Oversight Boards.

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