



MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

July 9, 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

The Syracuse Peace Council (SPC), founded in 1936, is an antiwar/social justice organization. SPC educates, agitates and organizes for a world where war, violence, and exploitation in any form will no longer exist. SPC challenges the existing unjust power relationships among nations, among people, and between people and the environment and **STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE PASSAGE OF S.8154 (Harckham) / A.10236 (Galef)** for the following reasons:

1. **A fundamental basis for peace and justice is an economic system that places human need above monetary profit.** A Decommissioning Oversight Board, established for each reactor when it announces closure, is needed to watchdog the for-profit corporation(s) tasked with decommissioning and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on behalf of the people of New York.
2. **New York's nuclear plants are aging and pose ongoing health and safety threats.** These include but are not limited to the obsolete, degraded equipment; routine and accidental radioactive releases and leaks; and the onsite accumulation of all the spent fuel generated at the plants. Decommissioning is a complex and dangerous process that must be carefully managed with expert oversight so as to protect the health of surrounding communities and the environment.
3. **Timing is key; New York State needs a Decommissioning Oversight Board now.** Indian Point nuclear facility retired its first reactor in April 2020, and its remaining reactor will retire in 2021. New York State must have oversight structures established to ensure local concerns about the decommissioning process are taken into account.
4. **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 establish its own Decommissioning Oversight Boards and NOT rely solely on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to oversee decommissioning of nuclear reactors.

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