

NEW JERSEY STATE AFL-CIO

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December 4, 2017

Dear Members of the Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities and Senate Environment and Energy Committees:

RE: Support for PSEG Nuclear Energy Production Facilities

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO is here today to support our members employed at PSEG nuclear facilities and to support energy consumer's through New Jersey. In addition to seeing significant layoffs and spiking energy costs, if the current financial pressures on nuclear facilities are not addressed, we will see a significant negative impact on the regional economy, to the resiliency of our energy supply and to the diversity of our energy portfolio.

Of course, our primary concern are our members. The New Jersey State AFL-CIO and its affiliate, IBEW Local 94, has over 800 permanent workers employed at PSEG nuclear facilities. These are good, union, middle class, family sustaining jobs. These are the types of jobs that allow workers to raise a family, buy a home and contribute to the economic & societal development of their local communities. These are the type of jobs New Jersey needs more of. They include maintenance workers, mechanics, control operators, equipment operators, as well as dozens of special classes of workers, such as radiation monitors.

In addition to these 800 jobs, various building trade unions, including the Plumbers and Pipefitters, Iron Workers, Operating Engineers, Electricians, Laborers and other construction trades are employed by literally hundreds of union contractors that do regular business with PSEG at these facilities, as well as emergency work during outages. Twice a year facility wide maintenance and rehabilitation is performed, which includes the additional hiring of hundreds of skilled professionals from the building trades for temporary employment at the nuclear facilities. All of these jobs would be lost if the nuclear plants shutter due to financial stress.

The ancillary impact on aligned industries that also employ our members would be decimated in the south Jersey region if these facilities are prematurely shuttered. They include jobs in transportation, retail, security and the loss of jobs from the closing of small businesses.

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We will leave the discussion of the positive effects of these nuclear facilities on the environment and to consumers to other experts. Our focus is on jobs and economic development. And without these facilities, we would see both of these suffer dramatically. Thank you for taking our thoughts into consideration and we look forward to working with you on the issue in the future.

Sincerely,



Charles Wowkanech
President



Laurel Brennan
Secretary-Treasurer

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OPEIU:153