Dear Members of the New Jersey State Senate:

RE: Support for Nuclear Energy Facility Legislation

(S-3560: Sweeney / Smith / Van Drew)

The New Jersey State AFL-CIO supports our members employed at PSE&G nuclear facilities and to support energy consumer’s through New Jersey. In addition to seeing 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. In addition to these 800 jobs, various building trade unions, including the Plumbers and Pipefitters, Ironworkers, 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.

Thank you for taking our thoughts into consideration and we look forward to working with you on the issue in the future. We respectfully ask you to vote YES on S-3560.

Sincerely,

Charles Wowkanech
President

Laurel Brennan
Secretary-Treasurer