



SUPPORT Memorandum

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President

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ON ASSEMBLY LABOR AGENDA 6/7/17 PROTECT WORKERS AT NUCLEAR POWER FACILITIES

A8173 Titus/ S6127 Murphy

The New York State AFL-CIO, representing 2.5 million union workers and their families as well as our retirees and their families, supports the above-referenced legislation.

This bill amends various sections of the Labor Law to enhance the WARN ACT as it applies to employers operating nuclear power plants in the state. Specially, the bill would require: the operators to provide the Department of Labor with a detailed plan of closure 18 months prior to such closure; one year's notice of employment loss to employees of the plant; and health screenings and retraining programs for the workers.

Developments in the energy sector combined with political and economic pressures on nuclear power plants have created unstable markets and forced uncertainty in many local communities with power plant operations. Recently, all the state's largest operators, including Indian Point in Westchester County, the James A. Fitzpatrick Plant in Oswego County and the Ginna Plant in Wayne County were slated either for closure, sale and/or downsizing because of this instability.

These plants are not only the biggest employers in the local areas but they are a critical contributor to the local tax base, economy and energy infrastructure. The workers, local communities and businesses all deserve a methodical, rational approach to any major closures or downsizings. This bill will help smooth the impact on local communities as well as help workers find new employment and prepare themselves and their families for the impact of job loss.

Therefore, this Federation urges this bill be passed.

For further information, contact the Legislative Department at 518-436-8516.