



UTILITY WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA

Local 1-2, Affiliated with AFL-CIO

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MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT S6127/A8173 **"Nuclear Facility Closing Workers' Protection Act"**

The Members of Local 1-2, NY, Utility Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO stress in the strongest language possible that Senator's Murphy S6127/Assemblywoman's Titus A8173 become law.

Not only does the closure of a nuclear generating facility disrupt the livelihoods of its workers but also deals a stunning blow to the local economies where nuclear power is generated. One need only look to the enormous billion dollar subsidies extended to keep open nuclear plants in upstate New York and contrast it with the State's announcement in January that the Indian Point nuclear facility in downstate Westchester County would close by 2021.

That announcement made earlier this year took local, county and state elected officials by surprise as they knew a closed Indian Point would be a catastrophic economic blow, not only to the Village of Buchanan, where Indian Point is sited, but to local school districts and the County as a whole. That the closing was announced with little thought given to the devastating economic impact it would have on Indian Point workers, but on the public as well, is the reason we wholeheartedly urge the Legislature to enact this measure.

The men and women who operate Indian Point on a daily basis are Members of Local 1-2. As such, they are highly trained, technical operators who take seriously their mission to provide clean, safe power to New Yorkers. To suddenly have their careers pulled out from under them by New York State merits financial consideration from the State.

S6127 will go a long way in addressing this grievous situation and provide the Brothers and Sisters of Local 1-2 with necessary assistance in job re-training, handling the dangerous work of decommissioning Indian Point, and securing new careers.

Sen. Murphy's S6127 also has provisions to ensure the health and well-being of Indian Point by including mandatory health screenings for Indian Point workers, with particular emphasis on determining whether they have any radiation related illness.

The bill also mandates that any nuclear energy company give the State 18 months notice and that the company has a plan in place in how it will address the enormous job losses and how its workers find new work.

The prospect of throwing out of work with no warning 350 Members of Local 1-2 at Indian Point was a harsh blow and demands to be redressed. If only because they are hardworking, taxpaying citizens of New York State, who will be out work because of the State's own actions.

James T. Slevin
President

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