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BOILERMAKERS • IRON SHIP BUILDERS



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Sept 02, 2009

The Honorable David A. Paterson
Governor
The Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Re: State Energy Plan

Dear Governor Paterson:

My name is James Waldron, and I serve as the Assistant Business Manager for Boilermakers Local 5, Zone 175 – based in Oswego. Please allow me to recognize and thank yourself and the entire Energy Planning Board for constructing your proposed state energy plan. This was a welcome and historic development, and an important step towards securing our state's energy future.

To keep the lights on and revitalize our economy, our leaders in government must take a realistic and balanced approach to safeguarding our energy future. This will require that New York continues to support clean, safe and reliable power resources such as nuclear and hydropower, while supporting the continued development of alternative energy resources such as wind and geothermal to complement New York's baseload power infrastructure. As you well know, the availability of affordable, reliable baseload power is critical to creating jobs, stimulating investment and growing our economy.

The plan has identified energy efficiency as the priority resource for meeting its multiple objectives. And while I agree that energy efficiency and conservation should be vital components of any credible energy plan, I believe that the plan relies too heavily on increasing energy efficiency at the expense of securing and maintaining needed baseload power. No reasonable person is against efficiency — but the fact remains that this will not be enough.

There are many solid initiatives within this report. Your support for a new power plant siting law and for utilizing existing right-of-way for transmission improvements are two important developments. Additionally, the plan's support for the construction of a new nuclear reactor at Nine Mile Point is critical for our region.

Despite these positive developments, our state is still facing growing demands for power. Even after conservation and efficiencies have been factored in, the New York Independent System operator still projects demand for power increasing into the next decade. To maintain and enhance our quality-of-life, New York needs to keep and expand its use of clean baseload sources, particularly nuclear and hydro, which account for 53 percent of our electricity portfolio. Of particular importance is downstate's Indian Point Energy Center in Westchester County.

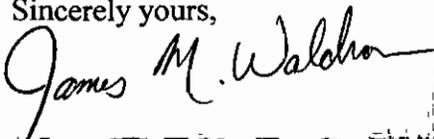
What does Indian Point have to do with Canton and the North Country? Well, Indian Point supplies up to 11 percent of the state's power and is in the midst of applying for license renewal. Your plan supports the plant's closure, and that is quite unfortunate

Indian Point is a union facility, with thousands of my union brothers and sisters either directly employed or responsible for contracted work at the plant. In the current economic crisis with record job losses, who in their right mind would support closing a safely-run power plant that emits virtually no carbon into the atmosphere and which employs hundreds of unionized employees who keep it safe?

Governor, there is much within your proposed plan to celebrate and heed. However, I would ask for you to revisit your proposal and incorporate Indian Point as part of the final energy plan. It is a key to achieving future sustainability, and it's the right choice to make for our state's working families.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



James M. Waldron
Assistant Business Manager
Boilermakers Local 5, Zone 175
Oswego, New York