

RESOLUTION NO. 124 OF 2023 OPPOSING THE DISCHARGE OF CONTAMINATED WATER FROM INDIAN POINT INTO THE HUDSON RIVER AND URGING THE NYS LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT S.5181 AMENDING THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW IN RELATION TO THE DISCHARGE OF ANY RADIOLOGICAL AGENT INTO THE WATERS OF THE STATE

CORNELL/ENTIRE LEGISLATURE: UNAN

WHEREAS, the company decommissioning the Indian Point nuclear power plant has announced its intention to release water from onsite radioactive fuel waste pools into the Hudson River; and

WHEREAS, to date there has been no specific reporting of the radionuclide contents of this water which is heavily contaminated from the storage of the nuclear fuel waste; and

WHEREAS, pre-release filtration to remove these isotopes has been presented as a solution to reduce the content of these carcinogenic contaminants to a level "as low as reasonably achievable;" and

WHEREAS, the National Academy of Science has indicated that there is no verifiable safe level of these isotopes when they are ingested or inhaled and such pre-release treatment would not remove tritium, also carcinogenic, from the water; and

WHEREAS, any contaminants in the Hudson present the risk of entering the food chain; and

WHEREAS, there are community members who depend on fish from the river as a food source, and in addition, there are seven communities upriver who source their drinking water from the Hudson; and

WHEREAS, since the river is an estuary that flows from south to north as well as from north to south, this fact must be considered; and

WHEREAS, the river also serves as a source of recreational activities and represents an economic resource that will be endangered by this reckless action; and

WHEREAS, New York Senate bill S.5181 has been introduced, an act to amend the Environmental Conservation Law to prohibit the discharge of any radiological agent into the waters of the State and meeting violations with fines of \$25,000 per day, \$50,000 per day for a second violation, and \$150,000 per day per violation thereafter; and

WHEREAS, while we strongly support the concept, we feel that the fines are too low and would likely just be considered "the cost of doing and business," so the fines should be substantially increased; and now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Legislature of Rockland County hereby strongly opposed the plan to release over a million gallons of contaminated water from the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant site into the Hudson River; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Legislature of Rockland County hereby urges the New York State Senate to pass S.5181 - an act to amend the Environmental Conservation Law to prohibit the discharge

of any radiological agent into the waters of the State, urges the New York State Assembly to introduce similar legislation, and urges the governor to sign such legislation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that when drafting and finalizing such legislation, the fines should be substantially increased so that they can have an actual deterrent effect instead of simply being considered "the cost of doing business;" and be it further

RESOLVED, the Legislature of Rockland County hereby demands that all relevant offices and agencies, including the Office of the Governor, the New York State Public Service Commission, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation the Indian Point Decommissioning Oversight Board, and any others involved in decommissioning Indian Point actually do something about protecting the public safety and the environment instead of just issuing press releases; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk to the Legislature be and he is hereby authorized and directed to send a certified copy of this resolution to the Hon. Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York; Hon. William Weber Jr., New York State Senator, Pete Harckham, New York State Senator; Hon. Kenneth P. Zebrowski, Hon. John W. McGowan, Hon. Karl Brabenec, Hon. Christopher W. Eachus, Members of the New York State Assembly; the President Pro Tem of the New York State Senate; the Speaker of the New York State Assembly; the Majority and Minority Leaders of the New York State Senate and Assembly; the New York State Public Service Commission, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the Indian Point Decommissioning Oversight Board; and to such other persons as the Clerk in his discretion may deem proper in order to effectuate the purpose of this resolution.