



## **Riverkeeper's 2020 Legislative Memorandum**

### **Support- S.8154/A.10236 (Harckham/Galef) - Support**

*An act to amend the public service law, in relation to providing for decommissioning oversight boards for nuclear power plants in New York state*

Riverkeeper strongly supports S.8154/A.10236, which establishes the framework for the oversight of decommissioning nuclear power plants in the state. These New York State Decommissioning Oversight Boards will enable a unified response from all relevant New York State agencies and facilitate public input from impacted communities, labor representatives, and other interested stakeholders. When antiquated nuclear power plants are phased out across New York, it is imperative that decommissioning is properly managed for the health of the community and environment as shown by the recent retirement of Indian Point Unit 2.

While retired plants no longer generate electricity, there are continued environmental and economic concerns. Spent fuel, radioactive materials, and demolition of massive structures must be carefully managed or removed as the site undergoes remediation. The retirement of a plant also can impact our economy, reduces jobs and tax revenue for nearby communities, while running costs upwards of hundreds of millions of dollars. As shown by the proposal to transfer Indian Point to Holtec—a decommissioning company with a history of lies, bribes, and risk-taking—the industry is eager to capitalize on the large decommissioning trust funds, without care to our environmental and financial interests. With intersecting federal and state regulation and the complexity of the decommissioning process, the lack of coordination can give the industry free rein to mismanage decommissioning and the millions dedicated to the process. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has long been swayed by the industry's influence; therefore, it is up to New York State to advocate for our environmental and financial interests.

This legislation will create a coalition of all relevant state agencies and a diverse group of impacted stakeholders to provide comprehensive oversight to ensure New York's nuclear plants are decommissioned in an efficient and safe manner protecting the state's environmental and financial interests.

For these reasons, Riverkeeper strongly supports this legislation to establish New York State Decommissioning Oversight Boards.

**Riverkeeper strongly supports S.8154/A.10236 (Harckham/Galef)**