



DANA LEVENBERG
Assemblywoman 95th District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

COMMITTEES
Corrections
Environmental Conservation
Housing
Libraries and Education Technology
Local Governments

August 8, 2023

Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor
State of New York
2nd Floor - Capitol Building
Albany, New York 12224

RE: ASSEMBLY BILL 7208/SENATE BILL 6893

Dear Governor Hochul,

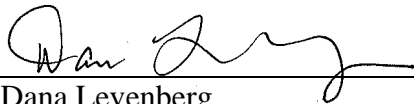
We, members of the Westchester Delegation of the New York State Assembly, write to you today to urge you to sign Assembly Bill 7208/Senate Bill 6893 as soon as possible. Many of our constituents are becoming anxious in the absence of action on this legislation. As you know, Holtec International has proposed discharging approximately 1.5 million gallons of tritiated water into the Hudson River this fall, perhaps as early as September. Though we know your office has hundreds of bills to review and act upon, the time sensitivity of this issue requires us to reiterate its urgency, particularly as new concerns arise about the contents of the wastewater to be discharged.

During a July 31 public forum on the Indian Point decommissioning process, we heard from an NRC representative who stated that they are prepared to allow Holtec to discharge treated wastewater without waiting for the results of all the required testing. Specifically, results for strontium-90 take longer to receive than the results for other contaminants. Strontium-90 is readily absorbed into the tissues of plants and animals due to its similarity to calcium. It is particularly dangerous for growing children and is believed to induce bone cancer and leukemia. The idea that Holtec would be permitted to discharge its wastewater into the river before levels of such a contaminant can be verified is alarming. Decisions such as this contribute to mistrust, not just of Holtec, but of the state and federal agencies that are tasked with monitoring them and ensuring our safety.

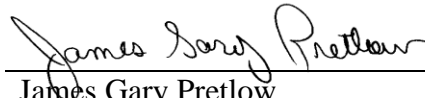
This mistrust gets to the heart of the purpose of Assembly Bill 7208. This legislation is meant to address the possible economic ramifications of the public's perception of a polluted, hazardous river. As trust in the decommissioning process declines, the potential for economic harm increases. As written, we are confident that there will not be cause for a federal preemption. Furthermore, it is our belief that the joint proposal governing the decommissioning of Indian Point does not expressly require discharging tritiated water into the Hudson River; discharging is but one of several disposal options that can be employed at such a plant. The State, therefore, is well within its rights to investigate and pursue other options for removing the spent fuel if we choose to do so.

We have collectively heard from thousands of concerned residents about this issue. These residents are now persistently asking us why this bill has not been signed. We respectfully ask for your immediate attention to this matter so that such questions may be resolved.

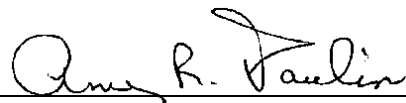
Sincerely,



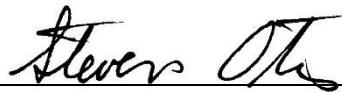
Dana Levenberg
Member of Assembly - 95th A.D.



James Gary Pretlow
Member of Assembly - 89th A.D.



Amy R. Paulin
Member of Assembly - 88th A.D.



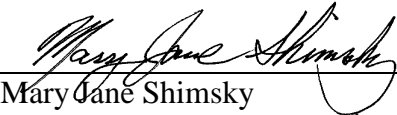
Steven Otis
Member of Assembly - 91st A.D.



Nader J. Sayegh
Member of Assembly - 90th A.D.



Chris Burdick
Member of Assembly - 93rd A.D.



Mary Jane Shimsky
Member of Assembly - 92nd A.D.