

**Legislative Testimony  
February 1, 2021**

Good afternoon.

It is my privilege to address you today as president of Your Salem Community College, the affordable, quality, empowering, and personalized educational opportunity. My message today is to convey how deeply rooted and critically involved PSEG and the employees of Salem and Hope Creek nuclear power plants are in Salem County, and the College in particular. SCC has had a very close relationship with PSEG and considered the organization, and its employees, to be valued partners for more than a decade.

From the Salem Community College side, we provide educational programming that generates highly skilled nuclear technicians to fulfill vital and valuable roles throughout the nuclear campus and the industry as a whole. In return, PSEG has provided outstanding support in the form of educational funding, scholarship opportunities, and faculty expertise to conduct not only the nuclear program, but other science-based initiatives. Beyond their vested interest in a labor force, PSEG also supports SCC with a variety of student endeavors not restricted to the Nuclear Energy field. This is truly the definition of a symbiotic relationship.

We are but one example of how important the PSEG Salem and Hope Creek nuclear plants are to our community. It is truly the premier economic engine of Salem County with 1,600 individuals employed on the site. We could never imagine – much less calculate – the counterproductive effect retiring of these facilities would have on the fabric of our County and the region.

Our County is extremely proud of its partnership with its nuclear plants, and even prouder of the essential role these plants play in our region's energy grid – providing 40% of New Jersey's electrical needs, and more than 90% of our state's carbon-free energy. We all recognize how imperative clean energy is to our well-being, here in New Jersey, in the region, and to the nation as a whole. Simply put, clean energy that protects the climate, the environment and public health is already here, and we wish to keep it here. PSEG Nuclear has been, is, and will continue to be a good neighbor and an essential part of Salem County.

I ask that you do what is necessary to ensure that these nuclear plants are able to work for the benefit of New Jersey – particularly my home, Salem County – long into the future.

Thank you.

Michael R. Gorman, Ed.D.