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February 2, 2021

New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

Dear BPU Board,

On behalf of our Board of Directors and 400 Chamber Members I am writing in support of PSEG Nuclear's continued ZEC Credits.

PSEG Nuclear is our largest Chamber Member, employing 1,600 workers. The heart of our chamber is our small business community. Knowing our members, I am confident when I say that most if not all of our chamber members' benefit from the economic impact of the Salem and Hope Creek nuclear plants.

As many of you know, Salem County is one of New Jersey's most economically challenged communities. When any large company closes, it has a devastating effect on the community.

Several years ago, Ardaugh Glass closed in Salem City putting 300 people out of work. The magnitude of this loss is still felt. After the Ardagh closing, 15 small businesses also closed and we lost a grocery store. I cannot imagine how devastating it would be if PSEG Nuclear's nuclear plants and its more than 1,600 employees were no longer here.

However, it's more than just the nuclear plants. Our community would be hard pressed to recover and those mom-and-pop small businesses would also be closing their doors. There are a lot of people here today. Many of them want the nuclear plants to go away.

I've lived in Salem County my entire life. I remember when Salem and Hope Creek were in the construction phase, and I remember the huge, positive impact it made on our community. The influx of construction workers boosted our local economy, especially for small business retail, restaurants and housing rentals.

Since childhood, I can't remember anything significant taking place in the community that did not include participation and assistance from PSEG Nuclear and their employees. The company has always been a terrific community partner not only providing financial support but also volunteers who make our community possible.

For those who say nuclear is scary, I've lived with the nuclear plants in my back yard my entire life. I've never been afraid because I know the people who work there. They are our friends, our neighbors, our loved ones. They are Salem County.

Salem County needs nuclear. South Jersey needs nuclear. And most importantly, New Jersey needs to take action to ensure there is nuclear power for many years to come. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to provide the Salem County Chamber of Commerce's feedback on this important issue.

Sincerely,

*Jennifer A. Jones*

Jennifer A. Jones

Executive Director & Chief Operating Officer