

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 15, 2016

The Honorable Stephen G. Burns  
Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Re: Docket ID NRC-2015-0070

Dear Chairman Burns:

We write to provide the Commission with our input into the rulemaking process entitled *Regulatory Improvements for Decommissioning Power Reactors* (Docket ID NRC-2015-0070).

As you know, the nuclear industry is confronting an array of challenges that are leading to the closure of a number of nuclear power plants over the next several years. Those challenges include less expensive competing energy sources, an aging infrastructure, and environmental and safety concerns.

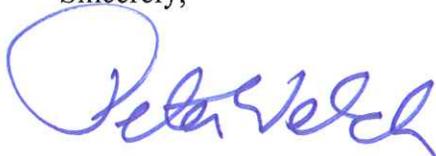
The decommissioning of a nuclear power plant has an enormous impact on the state and communities hosting the plant. It is essential, therefore, that the agency work collaboratively with states, localities, and interested parties throughout the decommissioning process.

Specifically, we strongly urge you to ensure that your proposed approach to this rulemaking provides state and local stakeholders with a seat at the table during the rulemaking through a transparent, authentic, and inclusive process, and that the final rule comply with the following:

- enhances community involvement by requiring licensees of decommissioning reactors to include state and local officials' input into, and for the NRC to formally approve, licensees' decommissioning plans;
- ensures that decommissioning funds are used strictly for statutorily-authorized purposes;
- requires spent nuclear fuel to be removed from wet storage and placed into safer dry cask storage as quickly as possible;
- ensures that the site of the plant is rapidly returned to beneficial use instead of decades after the plant ceases operations, and that licensees maintain or obtain the financial resources necessary to do so; and
- ensures that all emergency preparedness and response and security resources and licensing requirements remain in place until all the spent nuclear fuel is placed into safer dry cask storage.

We stand ready to work with the Commission to ensure that these issues are satisfactorily addressed in the revised rule.

Sincerely,



PETER WELCH  
Member of Congress



PATRICK LEAHY  
U.S. Senator



WILLIAM R. KEATING  
Member of Congress



BERNARD SANDERS  
U.S. Senator



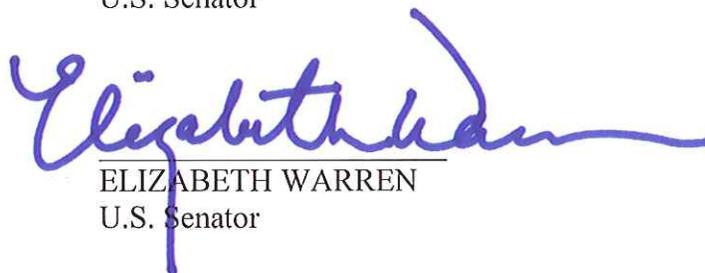
MICHAEL E. CAPUANO  
Member of Congress



EDWARD J. MARKEY  
U.S. Senator



KATHERINE CLARK  
Member of Congress



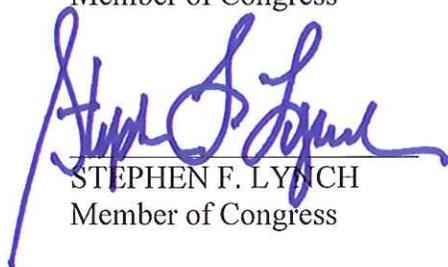
ELIZABETH WARREN  
U.S. Senator



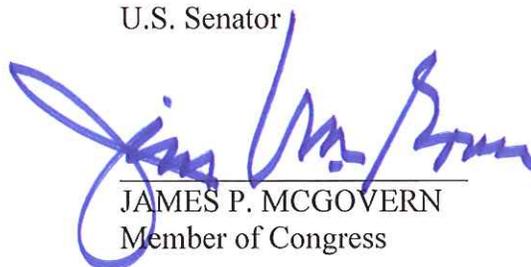
JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, III  
Member of Congress



RICHARD J. DURBIN  
U.S. Senator



STEPHEN F. LYNCH  
Member of Congress



JAMES P. MCGOVERN  
Member of Congress



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SETH MOULTON  
Member of Congress



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RICHARD E. NEAL  
Member of Congress



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NIKI TSONGAS  
Member of Congress