

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3203

February 22, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Leahy, Vice Chairman Shelby, Chairwoman DeLauro, and Ranking Member Granger:

As your Committees begin to reconcile the House and Senate Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations bills, I respectfully write to request the highest funding level possible for federal assistance for communities facing nuclear power plant closures through the Economic Development Administration (EDA). Nuclear power plant closures are negatively affecting the economic vitality and stability of local communities nationwide, including in my home state of New York.


In January 2017, Entergy, the owner of the Indian Point Energy Center (IPEC), announced that it would close its operating nuclear plants II and III in the Village of Buchanan, New York, by April 30, 2021, after almost 50 years of operation. The economic burdens associated with nuclear plant closures, including Indian Point's, are staggering. Communities around Indian Point are expected to lose over \$32 million in annual tax revenue. For the Village of Buchanan—once home to Indian Point—this closure has resulted in a loss of over 50 percent of their local revenue and over 1,100 good-paying, local jobs. Local schools are also suffering, with Hendrick Hudson School District's operating budget slashed by one-third, a devastating cut of approximately \$24 million, as a result of the impact on revenues by the plant's closure. Without robust educational funding, the economic opportunities for future generations of the area could be severely impacted, starting a downward spiral for the economic success of the region that must be prevented. Unfortunately, these burdens are not unique to New York.

I was proud to work closely with former House Appropriations Chairwoman Nita Lowey to create the EDA Nuclear Closure Communities Program in the Fiscal Year 2020 appropriations bill. These funds have provided critical investment to help rebuild the local economies of communities impacted by recent or scheduled closures of a nuclear power plant. This program has already provided a \$3.2 million EDA grant to the Town of Cortlandt, NY for a new educational recreation facility and infrastructure improvements like roads and a water line to generate new jobs and tax revenue to offset losses from the Indian Point closure. However, much, much more investment is needed to recover from the loss of this major regional employer.

As such, continued, bold support from the EDA remains critical to ensuring these communities nationwide receive the economic resources and development needed to thrive. For these reasons, I urge you to ensure the inclusion of the nuclear power plant closure language contained within the Fiscal Year 2022 Senate Commerce, Justice, and Science Report released by the Senate Appropriations Committee as part of the final conference report.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator

CC: The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen, Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies,
The Honorable Jerry Moran, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies