



## **Nuclear plant offers safe energy**

For New York's hard-pressed working families, maintaining a stable, well-paying job is critical for survival in our state's shrinking middle class. Sensible, effective energy policy is essential in this regard.

Unfortunately, numerous energy issues threaten to further undermine New York's economy. Absence of a state power plant siting law, overzealous state environmental regulators targeting power plant operations and continued political grandstanding related to Westchester's Indian Point Energy Center raise utility costs and eliminate jobs -- many of which are union based.

My union brothers and sisters believe certain state leaders are too anxious to add additional layers of regulation and hardships that imperil our jobs. That's why more than 200 union members turned out at a U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission meeting in late April to support Indian Point's continued operations and the tens of thousands of direct and indirect jobs the plant supports.

For years I represented workers in powerhouses throughout the state. We know they are very safe and efficient, or we wouldn't work there. Facilities like Indian Point are a foundation for our economy and working families. It is safe, reliable and critical to New York's long-term growth. Having worked there for more than 40 years, I say this unequivocally.

Ensuring the state has affordable, reliable, safe and clean energy is smart energy policy that means jobs.

Jerry Connolly  
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The writer is the retired business manager of Boilermakers Local. He now is the spokesman for the Coalition of Labor for Energy and Jobs.