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STATE OF NEW YORK**



**SENATOR PATTY RITCHIE
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October 11, 2016

Chairman Stephen G. Burns
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop O-16G4
Washington, DC 20555-0001

RE: NRC-2016-0195

Dear Chairman Burns:

I write today to express my strong support for approval of the application filed by Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (ENO) and Exelon Generation Company, LLC (Exelon) for the direct transfer of control of James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant (FitzPatrick) from its current holder, ENO, to Exelon.

Supporting the jobs of more than 600 hardworking men and women, FitzPatrick is one of largest employers in the region I represent. In addition, the plant also generates \$500 million per-year in economic activity. A timely approval of the application for transfer of control of FitzPatrick is critically important to making sure the plant's dedicated employees can continue their careers and to ensuring Central New York continues to benefit from the tremendous economic boost provided by the plant.

The continued operation of FitzPatrick is also a vital part of New York State's aggressive plan to reduce pollution, ensure a reliable energy supply and establish our state as a leader when it comes to clean energy. Earlier this year, New York State recognized that zero-emission nuclear power is critical to achieving the goals laid out in the new "Clean Energy Standard" (CES), which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent by 2030. In formulating the CES, state officials pointed to the fact that if nuclear plants—like FitzPatrick—were to suddenly cease operating, carbon emissions in our state would skyrocket by more than 31 million metric tons during the next two years, resulting in estimated public health and other related costs of at least \$1.4 billion.

REPLY TO: ☐ ALBANY OFFICE: ROOM 412 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247 (518) 455-3438

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In addition to economic and environmental benefits, the continued operation of FitzPatrick will help to ensure people across our state continue to have access to reliable, safe and affordable power. Today, FitzPatrick is responsible for producing more than 800 MW of electric power. That translates to energy for 800,000 homes and businesses across our state. Should FitzPatrick cease operating, it would result in a significant change in the makeup of New York's energy grid and in turn, would result in cost increases not just locally, but in other parts of the state.

Prompt approval of the transfer of control of FitzPatrick from ENO to Exelon is crucial to the future of New York's economy, environment and energy grid. I again express my full support for approval of this agreement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patty Ritchie". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "P" and a cursive "Ritchie".

Patty Ritchie
State Senator

cc: Commissioner Kristine L. Svinicki
Commissioner Jeff Baran

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