

April 21, 2021

Senator Ann Cummings
Senate Committee on Finance
Room 6
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

Letter of Support for H. 431

Dear Senator Cummings,

On behalf of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Decommission Citizen's Advisory Panel, I am writing a letter of support for H. 431, the current miscellaneous energy bill.

This bill now before your Committee includes a section related to the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel (NDCAP), amending 18 V.S.A. § 1700-1702. The original bill was initiated by members of the NDCAP during the 2020 legislative session through two representatives on the Panel: Representative Sabilia and Representative Coffey. The pandemic stalled the progress of this bill last year.

H. 431 updates the language in § 1700 around the formation of the Panel, who will serve on the Panel, and the names of ownership of the Vermont Yankee site.

H. 431 also amends § 1700 so that the current owners of the Vermont Yankee site (currently, NorthStar) will provide not more than \$35,000.00 annually to the Panel, through the Department of Public Service. With these funds, the Panel will hire experts, contract for services, and provide for materials and other reasonable and necessary expenses of the Panel until decommissioning of the Vermont Yankee site is complete.

This funding is important, since the Panel is currently exploring federal nuclear waste policy issues and implications for our community, intending to include more expert testimony and presentations at the public meetings, and making changes to the Panel website so that information can be better provided to the public. These funds are needed to support Panel members in these and other administrative efforts.

The 19-member NDCAP was created upon the closing of Vermont Yankee in Vernon, VT. This citizen's advisory panel focuses squarely on decommissioning and restoration issues facing Vermont Yankee, and ensures relevant information is gathered and shared with the local and state communities.

The NDCAP supports these changes in H.431. These funds will enable the Panel to be a more effective conduit to the public for Vermont Yankee decommissioning information.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Emily Davis
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