

# ACTION ALERT

## SEN. MIKE JACOBS INTRODUCES S.3417, REP. JOANNE OSMOND INTRODUCES HB6007 TO REPEAL THE ILLINOIS NUCLEAR MORATORIUM:

The pro-nuclear lobby is back again. This time Sen. Mike Jacobs (D., 36<sup>th</sup>, Moline; Chair of the Senate Energy Committee) has introduced **S.3417**, calling for the repeal of the section of the Public Utilities Act which prohibits the construction of new nuclear reactors in Illinois until a demonstrated method for high-level, spent fuel radioactive waste disposal has been developed by the Federal Government. A companion bill **HB 6007** was introduced in the House by retiring Rep. Joanne Osmond (R.61<sup>st</sup>, Antioch; Asst. Minority Leader). This common-sense law – akin to requiring a home builder to install bathrooms as part of the building plan – has prevented Illinois from becoming a de facto waste dump for even more reactors than the 14 we already have. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> time such legislation has been proposed in the past 6 years. Each previous time, NEIS, you, and other environmental groups have beaten back the attempt; even previously persuaded Rep. Osmond, a previous co-sponsor of such a bill, to recognize that her legislation was not in the best interests of Illinois, causing her to withdraw support for her own bill.

This has not dissuaded Sen. Jacobs – whose father lobbies in behalf of Exelon/ComEd – from introducing the current inanity. Nor have the many other facts and snips of reality, such as:

- **No utility interest:** Exelon has not only stated it will not be building any new reactors anytime soon, but that it may CLOSE three to five reactors in Illinois in 2014-15;
- **No energy need:** Use of renewable energy and natural gas use has increased in Illinois, driven by the State's mandated Renewable Energy Portfolio standard;
- **No "nuclear renaissance":** The nation is retreating from nuclear power nationwide. Five reactors were closed or announced closure in 2013-14. Numerous utilities have scrapped plans to build new reactors, even with federal loan guarantees dangled as bait to build more;
- **No benefit for Illinois ratepayers or taxpayers:** The inability under the best of circumstances to bring new reactors online for at least a decade or more into the future means this bill will provide no new jobs, no tax base windfall, and no added electricity;
- **No waste disposal solution yet:** The Federal Government still has not opened a permanent disposal facility for spent-fuel high-level radioactive waste, 27 years after Illinois enacted the moratorium as protective legislation.

One can only speculate on Sen. Jacobs' intentions or frame of mind in proposing this legislation. The bottom line is – it's a proposed "solution" to a non-existent problem, which will bring **absolutely NO benefit to Illinois** for at least another decade at best, if then. It WILL, however, **remove the only protection** the state has from additional high-level radioactive waste generation, at a time when DOE reports and recent Congressional legislation **may attempt to bring AN ADDITIONAL 9,000 tons of highly radioactive spent-fuel to Illinois for storage for up to 35 (or more) years.**

### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1. Ask your State Senator to **oppose S.3417**, and your State Representative to **oppose HB6007**, should either come to the floor for a vote;
2. Contact Senate leader John Cullerton (773-883-0770; 217-782-2728; john@senatorcullerton.com), urging him to make sure the bill never reaches the Senate floor for a vote;
3. Contact Sen. Mike Jacobs, (309-797-0001; 217-782-5957; senatorjacobs@sbcglobal.net), and Rep. JoAnn Osmond, (217)782-8151, [reposmond@aol.com](mailto:reposmond@aol.com) asking them to use their valuable time introducing legislation that would fix some of Illinois' REAL problems, like the budget, pensions, and education.
4. Check the NEIS webpage, [www.neis.org](http://www.neis.org), for updates and [Fact Sheets](#).

**For more information, contact:**