

# Organizational Sign on Letter: opposing the repeal of Illinois nuclear power plant construction moratorium; and support for prioritizing and implementing the goals of CEJA over constructing new reactors.

July 17, 2023 (revised)

To the Honorable J.B. Pritzker, Governor of Illinois, and  
Members of the Illinois Legislature:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we urge the State to uphold the 1987 nuclear power plant construction moratorium, and reject proposals to build new power reactors of any type until first fully implementing the construction goals for renewable energy sources as laid out in the 2021 Climate Equity and Jobs Act (CEJA).

Attempts are being made to repeal Illinois' 1987 nuclear reactor construction moratorium, which prevents new reactors from being built until the Federal Government opens and operates a permanent *disposal* facility for the ever increasing amounts of high-level radioactive wastes reactors generate, 11,000+ tons of which are in Illinois, with more being produced daily by existing reactors.

This attempted repeal is being done with the intention of promoting and building “small modular nuclear reactors” (SMNRs) and so-called “advanced” reactors, which will produce even more high-level radioactive waste with no disposal site currently available, and unlikely to be available before mid-century.

Additionally, new reactors would compete for market share and transmission access with the renewable energy projects mandated in the 2021 CEJA legislation, thus sabotaging the goals of CEJA and thwarting achievement of the goal of 100% renewables by 2050.

Worse, SMNRs do not even exist yet, and will not be available at commercial scale until the 2030s at best, making the moratorium repeal illogical and premature since they too will add to the continually growing radioactive waste burden.

**THEREFORE: the undersigned state their opposition to the repeal of the 1987 Nuclear Construction Moratorium and construction of new nuclear reactors in Illinois; and support achievement of the renewable energy goals expressed in CEJA and the state's prioritizing funding and efforts towards increasing renewable energy, energy efficiency, developing energy storage, and improving the transmission system..**

We thank you for your consideration of these views.  
Gratefully,

Name:

Organization:

Contact e-mail: