



Zachry Nuclear Engineering, Inc. remarks before the Connecticut General Assembly Energy and Technology Committee with respect to Proposed S.B. No. 106 AN ACT CONCERNING ZERO-CARBON ELECTRIC GENERATING FACILITIES AND ACHIEVING CONNECTICUT'S GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS MANDATED LEVELS.

Tuesday, February 7, 2017

Good morning, co-chairs Reed, Winfield and Formica, ranking member Hoydick and members of the committee.

My name is Mark Mills, and I am President and Chief Nuclear Officer of Zachry Nuclear Engineering, Inc. We are part of the Zachry Group, a full-service engineering, procurement, construction and maintenance services company committed to helping our customers in the energy and chemicals, power and industrial manufacturing sectors plan, build and renew their most critical facilities. We employ 20,000 employees in more than 35 offices and 450 sites nationwide. Our Connecticut office in Stonington employs over 100 engineers, and we opened our expanded facility here in 2011.

For many years, we have had the privilege of working with Millstone Power Station, and we have over a dozen staff members at the plant on a full-time basis. We know just how important this station is to maintaining affordable energy prices in Connecticut, and indeed throughout New England. We also know that Millstone plays a major role in maintaining our region's economic health and providing job opportunities for Connecticut's working men and women.

Finally, we believe that nuclear technology – with zero carbon emissions – is certain to play a major role as Connecticut, and in fact the entire nation, moves toward a lower-carbon future and works to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

We are here today to endorse the proposed Senate Bill 106, *An Act concerning Zero-Carbon Generating Facilities and Achieving Connecticut's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mandated Levels*. Although the bill is still taking shape ... and in its current form includes only a title and a statement of purpose...we hope it will pave the way for consideration of legislation similar to that taken up by the 2016 General Assembly regarding nuclear power.

Last year's legislation would have included nuclear power in Connecticut's competitive process to procure electric supplies for distribution companies. Currently, the solicitations are limited, and include only Class I renewable resources, natural gas-powered generation and large-scale hydropower facilities.

As it stands now, the competitive process does not provide an opportunity for Millstone, Connecticut's largest electric generator with a total capacity of more than 2,100 megawatts, to submit a proposal. We believe it is in the state's best interest to restructure the process through this new legislation and allow nuclear power providers, like Millstone, to competitively bid.

The potential benefits of including nuclear power for consumers, for the economy, and for the environment are very significant.

Including Millstone in the solicitation process would also support the continued operation of this station – a major economic engine here in New England. A series of recent studies have demonstrated Millstone’s many economic benefits for Connecticut and the region as a whole.

There is no question that nuclear energy deserves to be recognized as a “zero-carbon electric generating facility,” as stated in the title and statement of purpose for SB 106. If we’re serious about curbing greenhouse gas emissions, nuclear power needs to be part of the equation.

Please allow me to cite a recent study and report, conducted by the Analysis Group. In their study released this past December, researchers found that carbon dioxide emissions in Connecticut would increase by 2.2 million metric tons per year if Millstone ceased operations. That’s equivalent to the annual carbon emissions from nearly 470,000 passenger cars.

Connecticut has a goal of reducing its total greenhouse gas emissions by 20 million metric tons by 2050. Millstone’s zero-carbon-emissions production can help us achieve this goal.

Finally, let me say that Zachry applauds your efforts to develop and implement public policy that strives to assist homeowners struggling to meet their budgets and pay their energy bills, that supports businesses working to remain competitive and control costs, and that encourages everyone in the great state of Connecticut who wants to improve the quality of the air we all breathe now and for future generations.

Thank you for your time today and the opportunity to present Zachry’s views. I hope this is the beginning of a very productive legislative process for the people of Connecticut.