

Energy and Technology Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5202

AN ACT EXEMPTING EXISTING NUCLEAR POWER GENERATING FACILITIES IN THE STATE FROM THE NUCLEAR POWER FACILITY

Title: CONSTRUCTION MORATORIUM.

Vote Date: 3/22/2022

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/3/2022

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

[Rep. Holly H. Cheeseman, 37th Dist.](#)

REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill clarifies that nuclear power plants already operating in the state are not subject to any construction moratorium. This is done to ensure that existing power plants are able to have necessary repairs and upgrades completed.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Coleman, Claire - Interim Consumer Counsel - Office of Consumer Counsel:

- Supports the bill but suggests that it clarify that nuclear projects must be thoroughly evaluated in terms of safety, resiliency and cost by both the legislature and PURA.

Dykes, Katie - Commissioner - DEEP

- Does not support or oppose the bill.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Blaire, John - Associate Counsel - CT Business and Industry Association:

- Offers support for the bill, stating that existing nuclear facilities already adhere to safety and security measures. Believes that future construction would also be done in a manner which is safe and secure.

Kuhns, Roger - CT State Coordinator - Citizens Climate Lobby:

- Supports the bill and suggests that language regarding thorium-based reactors be added in order to give them preferential treatment.

Lynch, Cary - Climate and Policy Manager - The Nature Conservancy:

- Supports the bill, stating that nuclear reactors are a source of clean energy that are constantly operating. Also believes that the development of technologies in the nuclear space could make further development more appealing in the future.

Nuara, Mary Louise Weezie - State Policy Director-New England, Dominion Energy

- Supports the bill, expressing support for Connecticut's exploration of all forms of clean energy. States that safety and security technology/procedures are more than effective.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Phelps, Chris - State Director - Environment Connecticut:

- Opposes the bill, stating that developments in nuclear energy would be costly for the taxpayer and likely take upwards of a decade to complete. Instead believes that the state should focus on immediate solutions to the climate crisis.

Swan, Tom - Executive Director - CCAG:

- Opposes the bill, stating that the state should instead focus on more immediate solutions. Also believes that the state would be succumbing to corporate pressures by passing this bill.

Reported by: Trenton Kapij

Date: 4/1/2022