Massachusetts is surrounded by six high-level nuclear waste (HLW) storage sites from nuclear reactors. It is up to us to address our vulnerability from both in-state nuclear sites as well as sites on our borders and to make the State and Federal government take action.

Four sites are decommissioning reactor sites and two are operating. All have millions of curies of high-level waste on-site, vulnerable to climate disruption. For perspective, a hospital has 2-5 curies on hand for radiological treatments and research.

Millions of curies of the most dangerous waste encircle the Commonwealth. The nuclear industry and the Federal government abdicated their responsibility to create a scientifically sound and environmentally just solution. With no solution, we are held hostage to toxic waste with nowhere to go.

There is an escalating possibility of climate disruption; neither the nuclear industry, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), nor The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) address the consequences of a warming planet on reactors and their waste. We are decades behind in addressing the problem.

Massachusetts’ 2023 ResilientMass Plan to address climate change does not address the vulnerability of high-level waste from both in-state and out-of-state reactors in any significant way. We must initiate actions to focus on the most dangerous threat to the Commonwealth. We are in jeopardy.