



## We already voted NO on nuclear power! NO NEW NUKEs IN MASS—Tell Your Legislators!

In 1982, more than 2/3 of Massachusetts voters passed an important referendum that requires key safety standards before a new nuclear plant can be built. It doesn't ban nuclear plants but demands:

- Safe and permanent radioactive waste storage (some has to be stored for more than 100,000 years)<sup>1</sup>
- An evacuation plan for accidents
- A decommissioning plan to deal with the highly radioactive plant once it's no longer producing power.<sup>2</sup>
- And it provides that we citizens get to approve or reject the project. Several bills before the legislature would *revoke* this important protection and remove citizen input, even though it passed with 67 percent of the vote. *Don't let them sabotage our democracy! The Legislature should not undo the will of a huge majority.*

### **Please contact your own legislators and the Ways and Means Committee.**

This link [https://actionnetwork.org/letters/oppose-rep-cusacks-bill-rolling-back-mass-environmental-efforts?delivery\\_id=141942941](https://actionnetwork.org/letters/oppose-rep-cusacks-bill-rolling-back-mass-environmental-efforts?delivery_id=141942941) will allow you to write to all 60 members of the Ways and Means Committee at once.

Also write to your own State Rep and State Senator. Affordable Renewable Energy is what Massachusetts needs—and can't get if the Citizen Referendum is revoked. While you're at it, speak up to preserve Mass Save, which fosters conservation and efficiency and is also under fire in some versions of the bill.

### **Ten Reasons Why This Law Must Continue to Protect Us**

1. Nuclear is the most expensive form of energy.<sup>3</sup> As of 2023, it was already twice the cost of solar and nearly 3x the cost of wind.<sup>4</sup> Solar and wind costs have continued to drop, while nuclear plants face constant cost overruns and delays. If reimplemented in Massachusetts, energy bills and taxpayer bailouts<sup>5</sup> will increase drastically—even if everything works properly.
2. And that's a BIG if. Nuclear power risks major accidents. Three Mile Island, Chernobyl, and Fukushima are only three of more than 100 potentially catastrophic nuclear incidents,<sup>6</sup> many of them in the US, and we know from Ukraine that they are vulnerable to enemy or terrorist attack—and the land around Chernobyl will still be uninhabitable for the next 20,000 years.<sup>7</sup>
3. Don't expect any meaningful accident compensation from your insurance. We taxpayers subsidize nuclear power plant insurance, but the payouts max out at \$15.5 billion per accident,<sup>8</sup> while the costs are much higher. The 2011 Fukushima meltdown cost \$200 billion.<sup>9</sup>
4. Nuclear power isn't zero emissions<sup>10</sup> and isn't carbon free. It is NOT a climate solution. Nuclear power reactors emit huge amounts of global warming heat directly to our air and water,<sup>11</sup> and the mining, pellet fabrication, and other processes are usually powered by fossil fuels.
5. Nuclear power is unreliable. During storms and droughts, reactors are often forced to shut down.<sup>12</sup>

6. Nuclear reactors release radiation, which causes cancer, increases health risks and raises health care costs.<sup>13</sup>
7. SMRs won't save us. No small modular reactors (SMR) designs are in commercial production yet. They will take years to deploy, haven't been tested in real life, could be sited dangerously close to big cities, and might be ganged up in reactor farms, with the same problems but without the advantages of scale, so their electricity will be even more expensive than today's nukes.<sup>14</sup>
8. Nuclear diverts funding away from real clean energy and deep conservation.<sup>15</sup>
9. AI, data centers, and crypto are all huge energy and water hogs.<sup>16</sup> Setting efficiency standards for them would slash electricity demand.
10. WE, THE PEOPLE voted this in. Letting the legislature vote it out is an attack on our democracy that we fought for 250 years ago! If the state wants to revisit it, they should bring it back to the people to vote again.

This information comes to you from  
**Commonwealth Coalition for Democracy  
 and Safe Energy.**



Elaine Dickinson

**We can stop the nuclear machine,  
 We need to fight for a renewable  
 energy future...  
 No more false solutions.**

Contact: [info@nukebusters.org](mailto:info@nukebusters.org) or  
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#### Endnotes

- 1 <https://earth.org/nuclear-waste-disposal/>
- 2 <https://www.wbur.org/news/2019/05/30/plymouth-nuclear-plant-decommissioning>
- 3 <https://www.worldnuclearreport.org/Power-Play-The-Economics-Of-Nuclear-Vs-Renewables>
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 <https://www.taxpayer.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Nuclear-Report-Summary-Fact-Sheet.pdf>
- 6 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_nuclear\\_power\\_accidents\\_by\\_country](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_nuclear_power_accidents_by_country) . This link notes at least 99 through 2009 but lists several more recent ones.
- 7 <https://www.newsweek.com/chernobyl-aftermath-how-long-will-exclusion-zone-uninhabitable-1751834>
- 8 <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/IF10821>
- 9 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK253929/>
- 10 <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0140988313000042> (Highly technical, sorry. The next source touches on this in a more reader-friendly way.)
- 11 <https://www.greenmatters.com/clean-energy/does-nuclear-energy-cause-pollution>
- 12 <https://www.ans.org/news/article-3102/extreme-weather-is-affecting-nuclear-powers-reliability/>
- 13 <https://www.nirs.org/wp-content/uploads/fact-sheets/routineradioactivereleases.pdf>
- 14 <https://www.globsec.org/what-we-do/commentaries/faster-cheaper-smarter-promise-and-pitfalls-small-modular-reactors>
- 15 <https://caneurope.org/myth-buster-nuclear-energy/> . Great article covering several issues already referenced.
- 16 <https://www.theverge.com/climate-change/676528/ai-data-center-energy-forecast-bitcoin-mining>