

March 17, 2022

Governor Gretchen Whitmer, P.O. Box 30013, Lansing, MI 48909

Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist, P.O. Box 30013, Lansing, MI 48909

**Mr. Dan Scripps, Chair Michigan Public Service Commission,
mpsc_commissioners@michigan.gov, PO Box 30221, Lansing, MI 48909**

Liesl Eichler Clark, Director Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, EGLE-Assist@Michigan.gov, P.O. BOX 30473, Lansing, MI 48909

Speaker Jason Wentworth, JasonWentworth@house.mi.gov

Donna Lasinski, Democratic Leader, donnalasinski@house.mi.gov

Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey, P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909

Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich, P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909

SUBJECT: For the environment, keep Palisades open

Dear Governor Whitmer, Lt. Governor Gilchrist, Mr. Scripps, Ms.

Clark, Mr. Wentworth, Ms. Lasinski, Mr. Shirkey and Mr. Ananich:

Michigan faces increased pollution if Entergy carries out their planned premature shutdown of Palisades nuclear power plant. The slated loss of Palisades' zero-carbon electricity in May 2022 will all but guarantee an increase

in the use of natural gas, a carbon-emitting fossil fuel, when Michigan's goal is to achieve a 28 percent reduction below 1990 levels in greenhouse gas emissions by 2025 and a 50 percent reduction by 2030.

The Michigan and Ohio Local Section of the American Nuclear Society is part of a worldwide professional association that represents approximately 10,000 nuclear engineers, scientists, and technologists in the United States and abroad. Our members devote their careers to harnessing nuclear technology to save and improve lives, including generating vast quantities of reliable, clean CO₂-free nuclear power. We urge Governor Whitmer and the state of Michigan to take a fresh look at the growing negative consequences that Palisades' closure will have for residents of Michigan.

We ask that you use your influence to persuade Entergy to continue operating the Palisades Nuclear Plant and Consumers Energy to buy the clean power from the Palisades plant.

Palisades provides 798 megawatts of zero-carbon baseload capacity ([About Palisades Nuclear Power Plant \(entergy.com\)](#)). Consumers Energy has purchased its power in the past. If the premature closure goes ahead, the proportion of firm and zero-carbon dispatchable electricity generated by Palisades will be replaced mostly by fossil fuels to shore up the grid. Wind and solar energy technologies are too land intensive, weather-dependent, and intermittent in their electricity production to be capable of filling the vacuum left by Palisades. Continued operation of Palisades will also help sustain grid reliability because of its baseload power that can be called upon any day or night.

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We note that the draft MI Healthy Climate Plan fails to credit nuclear power for providing any energy for the state of Michigan, despite the current contribution of zero-carbon electricity by the Palisades, Cook and Fermi nuclear power plants.

Entergy credited the decision to shut down Palisades to it being uneconomical to run. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has recently announced the availability of money to prevent the premature closures of nuclear plants through the new infrastructure law.

Please encourage Entergy to financial support from the U.S. Department of Energy's Civil Nuclear Credit Program. Assistance from this program would allow Palisades to continue operate in current market conditions and to supply clean energy to the Michigan grid. There are nine years left in the current plant license.

Continued operation of Palisades would also provide continued employment to the approximately 600 workers at the plant. The plant is also one of the largest taxpayers in Van Buren County. While the Palisades Economic Recovery Initiative is planning to mitigate the problems that the shutdown will cause in the community, continued operation of the plant until the end of its operating license would delay the impact and allow further options to be developed.

Sincerely,

Michigan and Ohio Section of the American Nuclear Society

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