



107 W. Front St.  
Harvard, IL 60033  
www.thoriumenergyalliance.com  
thoriumenergyalliance@gmail.com  
312.303.5019

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September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Dear Gov. Pritzker, Senate President Harmon and House Leader Welch,

The Thorium Energy Alliance is a federally registered non-profit organization located in Harvard, IL, with over 5,000 members who feel deeply about advanced nuclear as well as saving our existing NPP fleet. We implore you to do the right thing and save the two Illinois nuclear plants at Byron and Dresden that are on the precipice of being lost forever. The premature closing of these two reliable and carbon free sources of power will cause irreparable harm to both our economy and environment. It will also regress any chances of Illinois and the United States from meeting any expectations of achieving reduced green-house gas emissions by 2050.

We implore you to use any means available and necessary at your disposal to preserve these NPPs for the residents of Illinois and future generations to come.

Below are some letters we've received from our members, giving voice to concern and hope that Byron and Dresden NPPs will continue to power Illinois for decades to come.

Respectfully yours,

John Kutsch

Executive Director, Thorium Energy Alliance

**Thorium Energy Alliance**

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**Keith W. Schue**

9 Maple Avenue  
Cherry Valley, NY 13320  
[keithschue@gmail.com](mailto:keithschue@gmail.com)  
407-470-9433 (cell)

September 9, 2021

**RE: Byron and Dresden nuclear plants**

Dear Governor Pritzker, Speaker Chris Welch, Senate President Don Harmon, and Exelon executives,

My wife and I respect science and we understand the importance of reliable, carbon-free nuclear power in combating climate change, avoiding air pollution, and protecting the environment. Having family in Illinois, we also recognize the economic value that nuclear power brings to communities. We urge each of you to take necessary action to keep the Byron and Dresden nuclear power plants open. Unless clean, safe nuclear facilities including Byron and Dresden continue to operate, more fossil fuels will be burned and it will be impossible for Illinois or the nation to achieve their greenhouse gas reduction goals. For the future of Illinois, the country, the planet, and generations to come, please do everything in your power to keep Byron and Dresden operating.

Sincerely,

Keith Schue

Shirley Schue

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Dear Governor Pritzker, Speaker Chris Welch, Senate President Don Harmon, and Exelon executives,

We urge you not to shut down the Byron and Dresden nuclear power facilities until they can be replaced by better designs. They are producing carbon-free power that wind and solar can't provide without fossil fuel or massive storage back-up. Please realize that when others have shut down their nuclear power plants, rates, and emissions have both gone up.

Until they have finished developing and deploying GEN IV plants, it is a mistake to shutter existing ones.

For the Wyoming LFTR Energy Alliance,

David G Earnshaw

David A Copeland

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Steven R Earnshaw

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I was a No Nukes person for 50+ years until I became a Know Nukes person when I realized that new nuclear options for using our hard to store nuclear by-products could help solve their storage, cut down the storage time and produce dependable low carbon energy.

Existing nuclear power plants should stay in operation because they are safe, dependable and have a much smaller CO2 stream than solar or wind.

Thomas Kurhajetz

Kurhajetz Electric, 41 years of operation

Willow River, MN.

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To anybody in Illinois that is listening and concerned about Climate Heating, Please do NOT shut down the Dresden and Byron nuclear power stations. These NPPs produce carbon free energy. At this critical time, what will replace them? They should be run as long as possible before shut-down.

Don't make a big mistake!

Joel Aronie

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This is stupid and short sided. How are you going to replace this green energy source? The most abundant alternative source in Illinois is coal. If you hadn't noticed between this year's extreme wild fires in the West and the abundant hurricanes in the East there is this thing called Climate Change as a result of CO2. This is a step BACKWARDS. Don't let the extreme environmentalists dictate a backward movement. This is not 1979 with Three Mile Island. Don't let the short sighted fears of well organized idiots take a step backward for your kids and their kids. Keep these plants online.

Chris Bolger

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Please - Keep Byron and Dresden open. These NPPs are critical to the environmental and economic future of the state of Illinois, our country and our world.

- These NPPs are key to achieving Carbon-Free Green goals

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- Prematurely closing these two NPPs will be seen as shortsighted and idiotic, now and for generations to come.

There are so many things wrong with shutting down any still viable nuclear power plant at this point in the history of humanity. The flawed economic data that may show any nuclear plant is not financially viable needs to be adjusted so that it shows a true cost benefit analysis. Climate is getting noticeably worse every year.

1. Explain how nuclear powered France can provide electricity at 1/3 the cost of electricity in renewable powered Germany. Illinois needs to change accounting methods to show the true cost of burning fossil fuel for energy. Part of the true cost of fossil fuel energy is increased healthcare costs and the cost of storms and wildfires caused by climate change. Also the true cost of nuclear power needs to be shown. The cost of unwarranted lawsuits brought by US fossil fuel interests and misguided environmentalists is not part of the true cost of nuclear power.
2. Humanity will need nuclear power to prevent climate change from making much if not all of our planet unlivable.
3. The energy from any nuclear plant that is shutdown any time in the near future will need to be replaced with energy generated by burning fossil fuels.
4. We will need people skilled and knowledgeable in the nuclear field, for clean energy and at least in the short term to maintain national security. Any nuclear plant shutdown will cause the loss of some number of talented nuclear people to other fields. We need to be ramping up our nuclear talent pool, not reducing it.
5. Fossil fuels are much more deadly than nuclear power in terms of number of fatalities per terawatt hour generated.
6. Technology exists to convert spent nuclear fuel to energy. This technology will evolve to do this at less cost and to use methods that reduce the nuclear proliferation risk from its already negligible level. Once a market for spent nuclear fuel is established, this will reduce the bottom line cost of power from all high pressure light water solid fuel reactors. Continuing to escrow money to cover the cost of disposing of spent nuclear fuel will not be necessary.
7. Maintaining and continuing to develop nuclear energy will provide a better chance of being able to convert nuclear weapon stockpiles into clean energy.
8. Shutting down any viable nuclear energy plant is short sighted.

Thank you for considering what I have stated. I sincerely hope you will make the right decision on this matter.

Ray Sundby, BSEE, MBA  
67 Berylwood Lane  
Milpitas, California 95035



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Harvard, IL 60033  
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thoriumenergyalliance@gmail.com  
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Nuclear power is the safest, cleanest form of energy and key to sustainable human flourishing.

Matt

Reno, NV

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The IPCC report on climate change is CODE RED . This relatively conservative group of 240 climate scientists give the world 9 years to reduce carbon emissions by 50 to 60%. Closing a major source of clean energy is absolutely insane. I have heard no roadmaps to reduce carbon emissions. Essentially we (homo-sapiens ) are committing suicide . Please stop the stupidity.

Alan Aronie  
17 Seymour St  
Concord, Ma.

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Governor J.B. Pritzker  
Speaker Chris Welch  
Senate President Don Harmon  
Exelon Executives

Thank you in advance,  
Michael Pelizzari  
TEA member since 2017(?)

264 Callan Street  
Milpitas, CA 95035

September 8, 2021

Dear Governor Pritzker, Speaker Chris Welch, Senate President Don Harmon, and Exelon executives,

If you care at all for the greater good, I urge you to keep Byron Nuclear Generating Station and Dresden Nuclear Power Plant open. They are critical infrastructure in the fight to save the planet from runaway greenhouse warming. Shutting them down prematurely would be hammering two more nails in the coffin of Earth's habitability. If you don't understand that, you should resign prematurely from your positions of power.

Sincerely,

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Michael A. Pelizzari

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Dear Gov. Pritzker and other decision makers.

Highly efficient, CO2-free reactors like Byron and Dresden must be kept operating . (Are you aware that the United Nations and the World Health Organization have judged nuclear power to be the safest way to produce electricity - and nothing else comes close?) Japan is restarting its reactors. Finland, Sweden, Poland, Russia, China, Canada and South Korea are expanding their nuclear fleets, and we should too. Climate change demands this rational decision.

For a non-technical critique of nuclear power and its competitors, download the **free**, image-rich PDF of Unintended Consequences: the Lie That Killed Millions in Accelerated Climate Change from [www.tundracub.com](http://www.tundracub.com). You will find surprises in every chapter.

George Erickson

Eveleth, MN [tundracub7@gmail.com](mailto:tundracub7@gmail.com)

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September 8, 2021

To: IL Gov. J.B. Pritzker, Speaker Chris Welch, and Senate President Don Harmon

I strongly urge you to exercise your leadership position to **keep the Byron and Dresden nuclear power plants open**.

These two plants are making key contributions to the electricity needs of Illinois—providing carbon-free energy that is so desperately needed in today's environment. To prematurely close these two NPPs will be seen as shortsighted and idiotic, now and for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Alan E. Waltar, PhD

Past President, American Nuclear Society

Retired Professor and Head, Department of Nuclear Engineering, Texas A&M University

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To all whom it concerns,

Illinois needs to maintain its position as the premier nuclear power state in the nation. The expertise that is in the workforce today will become essential as efforts to stabilize the climate are ramped up. American consumers are not going to tolerate the intermittent nature of wind and solar, leaving nuclear as the only realistic option for a carbon-free reliable electrical power grid.

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Keeping Byron and Dresden power plants open will help achieve this and position Illinois as a hub for new nuclear industry growth, which will become a necessity. Do not squander these valuable resources.

Most sincerely,

Steven H. Sims

**Steven Sims**

Software/Mechatronics Engineer

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IL Gov. J.B. Pritzker,

Global warming due to CO2 is already affecting our lives. And every day the atmospheric CO2 slowly increases. It is essential to reduce CO2 emissions now and into the future. Power from nuclear power plants does not send CO2 into the atmosphere. If shut down now, a good share of CO2 from replacement sources will significantly add atmospheric CO2. Please do not contribute to more global warming.

Thank you,

Jim Foote

265 E. Duane Ave

Sunnyvale, CA. 94085

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Please do not close Byron nor Dresden nuclear power plants. Northern Illinois has cleaner air thanks to the plants. If these plants close you only ensure a coal plant will be installed, which not only add CO2 to the air but also add dirty exhaust that aggravate respiratory illnesses. Nothing but nuclear can put this much clean power on the grid. Solar and wind is cute but there is still night time and sometimes the wind doesn't blow. Nuclear is 24/7.

If we are to meet carbon-free goals on time then closing these plants is counterproductive and frankly very stupid.

The decisions we make in the next decade may very well determine the fate of humanity, civilization at least. Don't be the bad guy in the history books to come, assuming we have one at all.

Andrew C. Rhodes

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Keeping Byron and Dresden Nuclear Energy Plants open, will save lives since they will probably be replaced primarily by fossil fuels. Some Illinois residents want Byron and Dresden Nuclear Energy Plants close because they fear nuclear waste.

### **Nuclear Waste**

Between 1968 and 2017, Illinois's nuclear reactors have generated 10,291 tons of nuclear waste, and Illinois had 12.78 million residents in 2017. Sound like a lot of nuclear waste, right?

### **Hypothetical Scenario for Illustration Purposes**

If every resident was given an equal share of the nuclear waste in 2017, each person would have 805 grams of nuclear waste or 1.8 pounds of nuclear waste. Since the density of nuclear waste is approximately 18.7 grams/ml, each Illinois resident would have a 43 ml of nuclear waste for 50 years of electrical production. In reality, we would not share nuclear waste any Illinois resident, but would keep it in dry cast storage where it can be properly watch for future industrial use. Nuclear waste is very valuable for future generations.

The amount of nuclear waste in Illinois is tiny.

Keeping Byron and Dresden nuclear energy plants open, is key to decarbonizing energy in Illinois in a timely manner.

Thanks for serving the people of Illinois.

### **Rob Gibson**

2247 Oakridge Dr., Apt #2

Aurora, IL 60502

(630) 701-9663

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For the future of the mid-west it is important to have a reliable carbon free electric supply. That supply also has to be economical. If Byron and Dresden are shut down the electric prices in the mid-west will go up based on the current increase in natural gas prices. The replacement power will most likely come from fossil fuels which will impact the mid-west region. The increase in carbon emissions has been proven over and over with the shutdown of nuclear plants, i.e. Germany, Indian Point, Pilgrim, Kewaunee Nuclear Power plants.

Please support the efforts to keep Byron and Dresden stations operating.

Sincerely,

Lee DuBois

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Gentlemen,

To close nuclear power plants is hard to believe. The clean power and we will need capacity for electric cars...!!! How can you charge it? We will be short and no new power plants are not build.

Best regards,  
Bob Suchy P. Eng.

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Sirs,

I am a graduate electrical engineer with over 40 years of industrial experience. I speak with knowledge and experience!

The two nuclear power plants that face possible premature closing are a critical element in the safe and clean generation of electrical power in the midwest. To prematurely close them would be an enormous economic and environmental mistake.

Listen to the technical facts. Look at the hard data. Do not listen to the emotional and unrealistic arguments offered to close these facilities!

These are safe, reliable and carbon free, electrical power stations that must remain in service.

William Follmer  
30410 Greenland  
Livonia, MI.

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Gentlemen

Please do not allow nuclear power stations Byron and Dresden to be prematurely closed down. You must be aware of the need to produce MORE carbon free electricity, not LESS. The global discussion on this issue will continue for many generations into the future. Make sure your name is remembered as associated with decisions that benefit the economy and the environment by EXPANDING the country's nuclear energy, not REDUCING it. History is something your children and descendants will have to live with.

Germany and Japan already are paying the price for reducing their nuclear generating capacity. Don't allow USA to go down the same path.

Thank you

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William TRONDL  
+1 902 774 1639

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CO2 is the molecule of life. We don't want to reduce it.

Nuclear power, clean, safe, abundant can stand on its own two feet - but is being muscled out by MORE EXPENSIVE (but subsidized by taxpayer's money) so-called renewables.

Keep those plants open. Build more nuclear plants! As the relatives of those who did in Texas because the windmills froze up, whether they want more of the same. Ask people in New York whose Indian Point plant was shut down, and the repercussions are already being felt, by increases in rates for one, and other problems.

Rick Sanders, M.A.

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The USA is one of the largest emitters of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. President Biden has pledged the country to meeting the reductions of the Paris Accord. These two NPP could be part of the solution to reducing carbon emissions. It's shortsighted to close them prematurely in favor of coal and gas plants, both of which emit tons of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. Your children's health and safety due to climate change is at stake.

Tom Lavrisa

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I am a retired environmental professional with a Masters in Public Health that including graduate level courses in environmental radiation. I also a Vietnam Veteran. In my career as Environmental Health Manager for a rapidly growing metropolitan county in Minnesota located withing 50 miles of Excel Energy's Prairie Island and Monticello nuclear power plants I was tasked with helping to write our county's Emergency Management Plan. In that capacity I got an inside tour of the Monticello nuclear plant. I was very impressed with their safety procedures and record. As a result, I challenged my long held opinion on nuclear power by researching more about the technology. As a result, I've stopped supporting the environmental organizations that I had supported for 40 years because of their opposition to any type of nuclear power. I've corresponded with Dr. James Hansen since I met him at a conference in 2007 where he spoke about climate change. His

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support of nuclear power and urging that it must be expanded if we are to meet the growing demand for clean electricity and transition into next generation nuclear technologies that are even safer and which can largely recycle the spent fuel from our existing light water reactors. Until we can transition, we must continue to benefit from our aging light water reactors for dependable safe clean energy. As has been decided in Minnesota I urge you to maintain the existing nuclear plants and support transitioning to next generation technologies. Wind and solar, as many experts have warned, including Dr. Hansen, cannot meet the growing demand without continued dependence on coal and natural gas generation, which will only increase the damage from accelerating climate change.

Respectfully

Allen Frechette, BA, MPH,  
Retired Nationally Registered Environmental Health Specialist and  
Hazardous Materials Specialist.  
Shakopee, MN

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Patricia Kutsch

32 N Fifth Ave.  
Des Plaines, Il. 60016

Phone: (847) 803-8728

Cell: (847) 987-8728

email: P.Kutsch@comcast.net

Governor J.B. Pritzker, Speaker Chris Welch, Senate President Don Harmon  
Exelon Executives,

September 9, 2021

Illinois Gentlemen,

It has been brought to my attention that Illinois and Exelon wish to close the Illinois Byron and Dresden nuclear power plants for politically arcane reasons. While currently providing numerous jobs and careers for Illinois citizens, these plants have provided safe, reliable and pollution free energy to our state and achieving carbon-free goals. You have but to look at Texas to see what will happen when the energy pipeline fails. Perhaps you are all climate change deniers but clean abundant energy is vital to our existence on earth! Please do get rid of coal mines but what do you replace it with? I for one do not have a giant field of wind machines or solar panels at my personal disposal. You should be building more nuclear power plants, not eliminating them.

Thank you,

Patricia Kutsch



**CONNECT-USA LLC**

Tel: 240-899-8992 25131 Chambliss Court, Gaithersburg, MD 20882 [JKJ@connect-usa.com](mailto:JKJ@connect-usa.com)

September 8, 2021

TO: The Illinois Legislature,  
Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker,  
Speaker Chris Welch,  
Senate President Don Harmon, and  
Executives at Exelon,

RE: BYRON, BRAIDWOOD, AND DRESDEN CLOSURES

Dear Sir or Madam,

Connect-USA LLC is writing this letter to you to express our support for the continued operation of the Exelon owned nuclear power plants in Illinois (Byron, Braidwood, and Dresden). In addition to the enormous clean energy contribution that these three electrical power stations bring to the people of Illinois, they also foster thousands of direct and indirect jobs, and contribute millions of dollars in taxes and other indirect aid to the local communities and school systems. These nuclear plants have run safely for decades and are operated by perhaps the most experienced nuclear utility in the nation. The State of Illinois's need for these three nuclear plants is a no brainer – unless of course, its citizens don't mind more business losses, and intermittent blackouts when the sun doesn't shine and the wind doesn't blow.

At present, these nuclear units have become sub-economic, not because of outdated technology or poor management, but rather because of an ill conceived, shortsighted deregulation policy that was enacted in the 1990s, and because of irrationally large, market distorting subsidies that have been given to competing solar and wind generators. These ill conceived interstate and national level policies need repair. Our Nation's national security needs demand the reliable clean energy systems that these nuclear power plants offer. National policy change and market reform will happen. It is inevitable. But in the interim, the State Illinois needs to step up to the plate and protect these valuable assets from extinction while the power markets are being repaired. This is a short term necessary investment.

With this letter, I urge you to explore ALL options to keep these three nuclear facilities operating including special grants, zero interest loans, power purchase agreements, and yes, perhaps a special intermittency tax per kw-hr on solar and wind generators with the tax proceeds directed to assist Exelon's clean, reliable nuclear fuel purchases.

Sincerely yours,

James K Joosten  
Managing Partner

Sally P. Hardwick, MS  
180 Mark Twain Avenue  
Reno, NV 89509

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September 8, 2021

Dear Gov J.B. Pritzker, Representative Chris Welsh, Speaker of the House Senator Don Harmon,

I am strongly encouraging you to speak out and vote against the closure of the Byron and Dresden nuclear power plants. It is unconscionable to allow these green energy plants to be decommissioned just as our nation is experiencing some of the most horrific effects of climate change. Until we have alternative and reliable, 24-hr energy sources we need current nuclear plants to continue operation.

Please do all in your power to assure these plants continue operation until such time as we have viable green options to power our nation.

Thank you for your attention to this crucial issue,

Sincerely,

Sally P. Hardwick