[Date]

Governor Charles Baker
Massachusetts State House
Office of the Governor, Room 280
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Dear Governor Baker,

We, the members of the Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates, representing the 15 towns of Barnstable County write to you to express our grave concerns about the degraded Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant in Plymouth. We ask that in your role as chief safety officer of the Commonwealth you communicate with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) the importance of closing Pilgrim as soon as possible to protect the citizens of Cape Cod.

In 2015, the NRC downgraded Pilgrim’s performance to one of the three worst nuclear power plants in the country, declaring it one step away from a shutdown. We are aware that Entergy will be decommissioning Pilgrim in 2019, but, despite a lengthy list of violations and unplanned shut downs, it continues to operate. Over the past several months our concern about a potential radiological disaster at the plant has risen as we regularly learn of its myriad malfunctions.

Citizens of Cape Cod seem especially vulnerable to a radiological plume from Pilgrim because there is no evacuation plan for us, instead, according to the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, we would be told to shelter in place and await “relocation.”

In addition to the public health and safety threat the degraded Pilgrim plant poses, there is the threat of a major economic disaster for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. On Cape Cod, tourism and real estate are the major economic engines. Both could be severely impacted for years, and house values would plummet should there be a radiological event at Pilgrim. Indeed Cape Cod towns could become uninhabitable and the economic losses would be incalculable.1

Recently we learned that the Massachusetts congressional delegation sent a letter to the NRC asking it to deny Entergy’s request for an extension for critical safety upgrades to Pilgrim. These safety upgrades were recommended by a panel of Energy’s own engineers after the March 2011 disaster at Fukushima Daichi in Japan. Pilgrim is the same design as the reactors in Fukushima and subject to the same vulnerabilities. Signing the letter were Senators Edward J. Markey and Elizabeth Warren, and Reps. Michael E. Capuano, William R. Keating, Joseph P. Kennedy, III, Stephen F. Lynch, James P. McGovern, Seth Moulton, Richard Neal and Niki Tsongas. We hope these elected officials will continue to advocate for an early closing of Pilgrim.

We need your leadership in seeing that the Pilgrim nuclear reactor is shut down as soon as possible rather than continue to operate in an unsafe manner. We also ask that a true disaster plan for Cape Cod is developed that puts the health and safety of the people first.
We thank you, Governor, for considering this serious matter and for communicating with us as to your results.

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Ronald Bergstrom, Speaker
Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates