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**New York Business and Labor Leaders Tell New York State Assembly
Energy and Corporations Chairmen:
“Preliminary Findings” on Indian Point ring false and contradict expert testimony;**

**Urge Chairmen and members to take “a deliberate and careful look at the extensive information
provided by experts” on Indian Point’s impact for the economy and electric system reliability**

New York, NY/February 10, 2012 – The New York Affordable Reliable Electricity Alliance (New York AREA), representing the state’s leading business, community, and labor organizations, today strongly urged members of the New York State Assembly Committee on Energy and the Assembly Standing Committee on Corporations, Authorities, and Commissions to reconsider their “preliminary findings,” issued via press release on February 1, on the effects of closing the Indian Point Energy Center.

In a letter to committee chairmen Kevin Cahill and James Brennan, New York AREA members express their strong disagreement with the committees’ assessment. The letter, signed by leaders of organizations which employ tens of thousands of New Yorkers, states, “We find the ‘preliminary findings’ that Indian Point Energy Center could close with little impact on ratepayers and reliability particularly troubling because, in our opinion, it fails to take into account the hours of testimony provided by NYISO, Con Ed officials, and the Charles River Associates at the January 12 committee hearing.” Charles River Associates is a nationally-renowned firm hired by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection to conduct a study on the effects of closing Indian Point.

The letter also restates the findings of numerous studies conducted over several years to determine the economic, grid reliability, and environmental impacts of shutting down Indian Point. Those studies show that Indian Point’s closure would result in a \$10 billion to \$12 billion increase in energy costs for New York State consumers, the loss of 12,000 jobs in the Hudson Valley region, and an approximately 15% increase in carbon emissions.

New York AREA urges the committees to take a deliberate and careful look at the information provided to them by leading energy experts and to utilize this information to reconsider their preliminary findings. Shutting down Indian Point would have a dramatic impact on both electric rates and system reliability in New York.

The organizations signing the letter include:

- African American Environmentalist Association
- Boilermakers Local 5
- Bronx Chamber of Commerce
- The Business Council of New York State
- The Business Council of Westchester
- Dr. Matthew Cordaro, former CEO, Midwest Independent System Operator
- Hudson Valley Economic Development Corporation
- Independent Power Producers of New York, Inc.

- Insulators Local 12
- Nassau and Suffolk Building Trades
- National Federation of Independent Business (New York State)
- New York Affordable Reliable Electricity Alliance (New York AREA)
- Rockland Business Association
- Westchester County Association

Key excerpts of testimony at the January 12 hearing, the video of which is provided by the State of New York (used by New York AREA for issues education purposes only), can be seen at: <http://area-alliance.org/index.php/new-york-state-assembly/>.

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About New York AREA: Founded in November 2003, the New York Affordable Reliable Electricity Alliance (New York AREA) is a diverse group of more than 150 business, labor, and community groups whose mission and purpose is to ensure that New York metropolitan area has an ample and reliable electricity supply, and economic prosperity for years to come. Entergy, the owner of Indian Point, is a member of New York AREA. New York AREA helps to educate policy makers, businesses, and the general public regarding the necessity and importance of safe, low-cost, reliable, clean electricity.

For additional information visit: www.area-alliance.org.

Below is the text of today’s letter to Chairmen Cahill and Brennan:

Dear Chairman Cahill and Chairman Brennan:

On behalf of the members of the New York Affordable Reliable Electricity Alliance (New York AREA), representing the state’s leading business and labor organizations, we are respectfully writing to express our strong disagreement with the “preliminary findings” you announced to the press on February 1st regarding Indian Point.

As you may know, New York AREA’s mission is to advocate and encourage sound energy policy that enhances economic activity and creates jobs for New Yorkers. We too have spoken with experts and reviewed data, and we came to the conclusion that the continued operation of Indian Point is an important element of the region’s economic well-being while providing substantial environmental benefits.

Having testified before your joint committee and having listened to the experts, we came to the opposite conclusion from your announcement. We find the “preliminary findings” that Indian Point Energy Center could close with little impact on ratepayers and reliability particularly troubling because, in our opinion, it fails to take into account the hours of testimony provided by NYISO, Con Ed officials, and Charles River Associates at the January 12th committee hearing. Independent data from numerous credible scientific studies demonstrates that Indian Point’s closure would indeed have a dramatic impact on both electric rates and system reliability in New York.

NYISO Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Rick Gonzalez testified that the electricity generated by Indian Point represents about 30% of the power consumed by New York City. Mr. Gonzales said, “Our studies have found that, absent Indian Point or absent adequate replacement resources, there would be a deficiency of over 1,200 megawatts by the summer of 2016, and this deficiency would increase over time.”

Con Ed's Vice President of Energy Management, Joseph Oates, offered additional support for these facts with his testimony, stating, "Indian Point's current electricity production is required to maintain system reliability ... the shutdown of the Indian Point units would increase the price of electricity for consumers, would increase greenhouse gases and other air emissions in the region, and would impact the local economy."

Your committees were also provided with the findings of the Charles River study commissioned by the City of New York. That study concluded, among other things, that Indian Point's closure would result in a \$2 to \$3 billion increase in energy costs for New York City consumers and a \$10 to \$12 billion dollar rise in energy costs for consumers throughout the state. These findings are compounded by data released January 31st by the Energy Information Administration (EIA) that states that New Yorkers pay the third highest electricity rates in the nation.

Closing Indian Point would also lead to many job losses. In addition to those jobs that would be lost at the plant, a well-respected economic analysis finds that up to 12,000 additional jobs would also be lost, mostly in service jobs in the Lower Hudson Valley. Further, at a time when New York needs to attract billions of dollars in new investment, we would be telling investors and others looking to expand in New York that the Empire State is "closed for business."

With respect to damage to the environment, the Charles River report stated that toxic pollution would increase. The city and state would see approximately a 15% increase in carbon emissions and roughly a 7-8% increase in nitrous oxide emissions as a result of replacing Indian Point's electric power with any of the currently available options.

We encourage your committees to take a deliberate and careful look at the extensive information provided by a number of esteemed experts and to utilize the data referenced in our attachment. We believe that the facts are clear, regardless of your political views on nuclear power: closing Indian Point will increase costs for ratepayers, decrease electric system reliability, decrease air quality, and cost many New Yorker's their jobs.

Nothing teaches quite so well as the past. It has been previously suggested that a hearing on the economic impacts of the Shoreham shut down and LILCO bailout will clearly demonstrate the economic damage that comes to a wide number of communities with the premature closure of a large nuclear power plant. Every man, woman, and child on Long Island currently pays over \$2,000 in higher electricity costs as a result of Shoreham's closure. It would truly be unfortunate to again travel down that path, especially in these tough economic times.

Thank you again for your attention to this important matter.

To obtain information on reports, statements, and testimony about Indian Point, [click here](#).

To view the full letter to Assembly Committee Chairmen Brennan and Cahill, including New York AREA member signatures and an appendix with the reports, statements, and testimony about Indian Point, [click here](#).