A Petition On Nuclear Reactor Security and Safety

Whereas, Illinois has more commercial nuclear reactors than any other state (14), and Chicago has 10 reactors closer to it than Chernobyl was to Kiev, ALL less than 25 minutes flight time from the World's busiest airport, O'Hare Field; and
Whereas, the President's and Vice President's proposed national energy plans call for constructing new reactors, and extending the operating life-spans of existing reactors; and
Whereas, the tragic events of September 11, 2001, demonstrated, and federal and international regulators publicly admitted that nuclear reactors currently in use or proposed, and the "spent" reactor fuel pools adjacent to them, could not withstand the impact of today's generation of aircraft without releasing radiation (making every nuclear reactor in effect a "World Trade Center with 1,000 Hiroshima's worth of radiation stored inside"); and finally
Whereas, viable energy alternatives already exist to make these existing or proposed reactors unnecessary;

We, the people of the State of Illinois, call upon the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and appropriate state and federal government officials to enact and begin implementing the following before the next 9-11 anniversary—or attack:

1.) **Require** all currently operating reactors and spent fuel pools to be made capable of withstanding impacts from current and future planned aircraft without a release of radiation as a mandatory condition for renewal of their operating licenses;
2.) **Prohibit** the licensing and construction of ***any*** new reactors without a containment structure design that can ***demonstrate*** it can withstand impacts from current and planned generation aircraft without a release of radiation;
3.) **Abandon** permanently NRC's proposed plans and programs allowing the nuclear industry self-evaluation in the areas of plant safety and security; and have NRC ***require*** utilities to demonstrate to evaluators independent of NRC and the nuclear industry the ability to successfully resist terrorist assaults from land, sea, and air, or face license suspension;
4.) **Support** the aggressive implementation of energy efficiency and renewable energy resources resulting in 20% of US electricity needs being met by renewable energy resources by the year 2020, as a way to begin phasing out these potential nuclear terrorist targets as soon as possible, while still meeting legitimate energy needs. ***ver.2006***

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