



## **CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND**

### **HB 600 Oppose**

#### **Ways and Means Committee**

**February 14, 2019**

#### **HB 600: Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Tier 1 Renewable Source – Nuclear Energy**

**Contact: Kate Stewart, Mayor**

**kates@takomaparkmd.gov, 301-891-7230**

The City of Takoma Park strongly opposes HB 600 and any bill that would promote the production and use of nuclear energy. We urge an unfavorable vote on this bill.

Nuclear energy is not a renewable or safe resource and poses a significant threat to the health and wellbeing of Takoma Park residents and others throughout this region. It also poses grave environmental risks. The production of nuclear energy creates highly radioactive nuclear waste, and the transport of such waste would create substantial risk to the public safety and welfare of our City and the region.

The City of Takoma Park is known regionally and nationally as a “Nuclear-Free Zone.” This dates back to 1983 when the City Council passed an ordinance that, among other things, prohibits the City from doing business with industries and institutions that engage in the production of nuclear weapons and their components. The purpose of the ordinance is to establish the City as a nuclear-free zone by prohibiting work on nuclear weapons and even transport of nuclear materials in the City in order to avoid harmful exposure to our residents. The ordinance further encourages residents to “redirect resources previously used for nuclear weapons and nuclear power generation towards endeavors which promote and enhance life, such as human services, including child care, housing, schools, health care, emergency services, public transportation, energy conservation, public assistance and jobs.”

There are many reasons the City decided to take this measure. Among them, as stated in the City’s Code:

- The nuclear arms race has been accelerating for more than 1/3 of a century, draining the world's resources and presenting humanity with the ever-mounting threat of nuclear holocaust.
- There is no adequate method to protect Takoma Park residents in the event of nuclear war.
- Nuclear war threatens to destroy most higher life forms on this planet.
- The use of resources for nuclear weapons prevents these resources from being used for other human needs, including jobs, housing, education, health care, public transportation and services for youth, the elderly and the disabled.
- The United States, as a leading producer of nuclear weapons, should take the lead in the process of global rejection of the arms race and the elimination of the threat of impending holocaust.
- An emphatic expression of the feelings on the part of private citizens and local governments can help initiate such steps by the United States and the other nuclear weapons powers.
- Takoma Park is on record in support of a bilateral nuclear weapons freeze and has expressed its opposition to civil-defense crisis relocation planning for nuclear war.
- The failure of governments of nuclear nations adequately to reduce or eliminate the risk of ultimately destructive nuclear attack requires that the people themselves, and their local representatives, take action.
- In view of the Nuremberg Principles, which hold individuals accountable for crimes against humanity, and the illegality of nuclear weapons under international law, in adopting this chapter, this community seeks to end its complicity with preparations for fighting a nuclear war.
- The production of nuclear energy creates highly radioactive nuclear waste whose transportation through the City creates substantial risk to the public safety and welfare of the City.