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Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Hearing
Public Comment on Calvert Cliffs New Reactor Application
Wednesday, January 25, 2012 1:00-2:30PM
Calvert Marine Museum

I am here today on behalf of the Clean and Safe Energy Coalition, or CASEnergy. The CASEnergy Coalition is a large national grassroots coalition of allies united across the business, environmental, academic, consumer and labor communities. Our members support the increased use of nuclear energy to ensure an environmentally clean, safe, affordable and reliable supply of electricity.

The license application for a new reactor at Calvert Cliffs is another exciting step forward as the U.S. works to lower emissions by bringing on additional clean air energy, something that nuclear energy can provide.

We have already heard from multiple independent regulatory bodies about the careful and thorough surveys completed to assess the draft environmental impact statement for this project, and UniStar's application to construct and operate a new reactor should be permitted to proceed based on the findings. Not only will the project provide clean, safe and reliable energy while protecting the environment around it, but the economic impact to the region will be significant.

Nuclear energy is a driver of economic growth, and the construction and operation of new nuclear energy facilities in the United States will bring billions of

dollars to local economies and create tens of thousands of jobs. The new reactor proposed for Calvert Cliffs is no different.

Each new nuclear energy facility will create an average of 1,400 to 1,800 high-paying jobs during construction, and as many as 2,400 during peak periods of construction. Approximately 400-700 permanent jobs will be needed at each nuclear facility once they are operational, between 2016 and 2017.

As a real example of this job creation, Georgia Power has begun pre-construction activities on Vogtle Units 3 and 4 and has already created 1,750 jobs in preparation for the two new reactors. The expansion of Vogtle is expected to create about 3,500 new jobs at peak construction, along with up to 800 full-time positions once the reactors are producing electricity for nearly 1.6 million Georgia homes.

Meanwhile, in South Carolina construction on two new reactors at V.C. Summer could employ 3,000 to 4,000 people for three to four years. Once completed, the new units may add 800 to 1,000 full-time workers.

The jobs we are talking about are high-paying, reliable jobs that cannot be shipped overseas. Jobs at nuclear energy facilities pay 36 percent more than the average salaries for a local area. It also estimates the average 1,000 megawatt nuclear facility generates approximately $470 million in electricity sales or economic output in the local community, and more than $40 million in total labor income.

But the impact of new reactors goes beyond just jobs at the facility. The average nuclear energy facility generates almost $16 million in state and local tax revenue annually. These tax dollars benefit schools, roads, and other infrastructure for Calvert County and the Lusby area.

Analysis shows that every dollar spent by the average nuclear energy facility results in the creation of $1.04 in the local communities, in this case Calvert County and Lusby. Additionally, the average nuclear energy facility generates federal tax payments of approximately $67 million annually.

I think it is important to consider all of the facts when making a decision as important as this one, and I thank you for your time.