



## Representative Mike Huebsch

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### Vice-Chair Joint Committee on Finance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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September 17, 2003

## **CLEAN, SAFE AND EFFICIENT BRINGING NUCLEAR POWER BACK ON-LINE**

West Salem - Wisconsin is facing a significant energy shortfall, yet one of the cleanest, safest and most efficient forms of generating power is not even being considered. One lawmaker wants to change that. On Wednesday, Representative Mike Huebsch (R-West Salem) unveiled legislation which will lift the ban on construction of new nuclear plants in Wisconsin. Huebsch says nuclear power must be considered in addressing the state's future power needs.

“Unless we want to see blackouts like the east coast saw, we need to consider every possible safe option to meet our energy needs,” Huebsch said, “For us, as a state, to not even consider nuclear power is irresponsible.”

The State Division of Energy predicts Wisconsin will need an additional 6,300 Megawatts of energy by 2016 and could see a capacity shortage as early as 2007. Since 1983, Wisconsin has had a virtual ban on construction of nuclear plants – even though many scientists, citizens and environmentalists support nuclear power. Huebsch said he began to research nuclear power after receiving several letters from students in his district who supported nuclear power.

“Wisconsin already receives 20% of our energy from nuclear plants in Kewaunee and Point Beach. I think we are seeing a switch in people's attitudes toward nuclear power,” Huebsch said, “Obviously, there are concerns with every way we know how to generate electricity. When you start to compare each of them, nuclear power has a lot more upside than the others and should be at the table when we consider the future of energy in Wisconsin.”

#### **Facts about Nuclear Power:**

- ❖ One kilogram of uranium provides as much power as 100,000 kilograms of oil
- ❖ Nuclear plants do not produce any carbon dioxide or sulfur emissions
- ❖ Nuclear plants emit less radioactivity than a typical coal plant
- ❖ The most optimistic estimates believe the supply of fossil fuels will last no more than 100 more years
- ❖ The annual high-level waste from a large nuclear plant has a volume about the size of two automobiles.

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