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STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN KEATING – NRC ANNUAL ASSESSMENT MEETING
FOR PNPS – March 21, 2017

Thank you for the opportunity to address you at tonight's Annual Assessment Meeting. Once again, it is encouraging to see the community represented here tonight to demonstrate their concerns regarding the safe management and oversight of Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station.

Unfortunately, the House voting schedule prevents me from being here in person. But I wanted to re-state my opinion that the NRC must place PNPS under the most rigorous scrutiny in order to improve the safety culture at the plant. In addition, Entergy must be required to operationalize adequate Corrective Action Programs to maximize the safety of residents of Plymouth and surrounding communities.

At the Government-to-Government presentation yesterday, NRC staff rightly called into question Entergy's commitment to safety culture. As a licensed operator, Entergy must prove itself worthy of the trust of the federal government and the people it serves, and it needs to do this every day, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It can only do this by having in place a Safety Conscious Work Environment, where every employee is invested in the safe operation of the plant, and feels like his or her work has the ultimate goal of preserving the safety of the public, not the bottom line of Entergy's shareholders. The findings of this Annual Assessment Letter, which keeps Pilgrim in Column 4 due to long-standing issues of low-to-moderate safety significance, indicate that that commitment to safety has not been met by Entergy management.

I call upon the NRC to maintain its level of oversight at PNPS and target its assessments of the plant to improved safety procedures and protocols. Entergy must be held accountable for the deficiencies identified in this assessment and the other ongoing inspections, and corrective action must be taken. The safety of the people of Massachusetts depends on it.