

# Coalition for Responsible Energy Development in New Brunswick

May 21, 2020

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, MP  
Minister of Infrastructure and Communities  
House of Commons Ottawa, Ontario KIA OA6  
by email

## **Re: Request by Premier Higgs to use Infrastructure funds for SMNRs**

Dear Minister McKenna,

Our Coalition is comprised of groups and individuals in New Brunswick working to ensure responsible energy development in our province.

We learned that recently Premier Higgs wrote to the Prime Minister requesting that infrastructure funding amendments include support for Small Modular Nuclear Reactors (SMNRs). We wish to inform you that significant public opposition exists in New Brunswick to the development of SMNRs in our province.

With regard to our Premier's request, our understanding is that the infrastructure funds are intended to have a stimulus effect. There is no stimulus effect of funding a concept that all proponents acknowledge will not see the light of day for at least a decade. Very few or no New Brunswickers would be hired with this funding, especially none who are currently out of work. We note that the companies hoping to benefit from the federal funding for SMNRs are recent entrants to the province with headquarters outside the country, including one that last week received \$3.5 million in funding from the US government to advance its reactor technology.

The Premier's request has nothing to do with improving basic infrastructure in New Brunswick.

Sincerely,

Paula Tippett and Samuel Arnold  
for the Coalition for Responsible Energy Development in New Brunswick

cc:

Blaine Higgs, Premier of New Brunswick  
Kevin Vickers, Leader of the Liberal Party of New Brunswick  
David Coon, Leader of the Green Party of New Brunswick  
Kris Austin, Leader of the People's Alliance Party of New Brunswick