

Funding more nuclear in New Brunswick is the wrong direction

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister O'Regan (Minister of Natural Resources),

I write to express deep concern about federal funding for development of small modular nuclear reactors (SMNRs). I am opposed to nuclear expansion and believe your government and three provincial governments are headed in the wrong direction by promoting and funding development of SMNRs with taxpayers' money.

With industry, your government and the governments of New Brunswick, Ontario and Saskatchewan are promising jobs and carbon neutral electricity generation from SMNRs. We are all committed to meeting vital carbon emissions targets. However, steep financial costs and serious dangers to human health and the environment from nuclear expansion far outweigh any promised benefits. More sustainable and cost-effective advantages would flow from a nuclear-free focus on renewable energy from wind, solar, geothermal and tidal sources.

My main concern is dangerous radioactivity throughout the nuclear cycle, from uranium mining and transportation, to radioactive waste for many generations. Proposals to extract and transfer radioactive materials from conventional nuclear reactors to SMNRs pose grave risks. I am also alarmed about plans for SMNR exports after prototypes are developed in Canada.

Internationally, there have long been troubling connections between nuclear power generation and nuclear weapons. Globally, Canada has played a major role for many decades in this unstable nuclear cycle. Now is the time for you and your government to take the lead by resisting costly and dangerous nuclear expansion, while investing in sustainable energy alternatives for the sake of the environment, as well as present and future generations.

Sincerely,

Roma De Robertis
Saint John

cc:
Mr. Wayne Long, MP, Saint John-Rothesay
Hon. Blaine Higgs, Premier of New Brunswick