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The groups here on stage are part of a national coalition of 120 groups that are opposed to gov't funding for SMRs, or small modular nuclear reactors. We believe that SMRs are a dirty, dangerous, high-cost distraction from real climate action.

My organization is committed to moving ON to a 100% renewable electricity grid – we focus on financial implications of new nuclear while other groups in our coalition address issues of health, waste, and weapons proliferation. Ten of our groups – from SK to NB – are here in Ottawa for the *Not the Nuclear Lobby* – to meet with MPs to share with them what they're not hearing for the nuclear industry – that SMRs are a false and costly detour from real climate action.

Big picture: the nuclear industry world-wide is tanking. In the 90's, the world got 17% of its electricity from nuclear – today it's under 10% and sinking. And that's because the majority of the world's reactors – just over 400 – were built in the 70's and 80's. And then Chernobyl blew in 1986 and sent radioactive particles around the globe, contaminating much of Europe. That stopped new reactor sales. Those pre-Chernobyl reactors are now at the end of their life and are being retired and replaced with much lower cost, safer renewable power.

And then in 2011, Fukushima blew – a triple meltdown – ending new reactor sales again, with the exception of some being built in China and India. Germany, for example, after Fukushima, committed to phasing out all 22 of their nukes, and last Saturday shuttered their last 3 reactors. Germany is building out wind and solar, half of it community owned, *and* they're committed to phasing out coal by 2038.

In the face of declining market share, the nuclear industry is now desperate for a new market, and Canada has come to the rescue by inviting US and UK nuclear companies to build their experimental technology here – I guess we've given up on CANDUs yet we want to stay in the nuclear game.

Alberta hopes to extract bitumen from the tarsands with a US SMR; Saskatchewan hopes to keep their uranium industry afloat with a US/Japanese reactor; Ontario plans to build up to 4 US/Japanese reactors just east of Toronto; New Brunswick hopes to build one US and one UK reactor, both which will rely on plutonium extraction – keep in mind that the most toxic places on earth are places where they've extracted plutonium (Hanford US, Sellafield UK, and La Hague France).

Already \$100 million has gone to these foreign companies to bring their untested reactors to Canada, and another \$970 million was given to OPG from the Canada Infrastructure Bank in the form of a low-interest loan to build their first SMR – if ever completed, this will be the first grid-connected SMR in the world.

All these chosen reactors are different, and none have ever been built anywhere in the world – they're all power point reactors, just paper designs – and all are expected to siphon billions of tax dollars and take more than a decade to build, if they ever come online.

On top of these provincial projects, the feds are building an SMR research facility for foreign entities as well as the infamous SNC Lavalin, just upstream from Ottawa at Chalk River. This consortium has already received more than one billion dollars per year for 10 years, and another billion dollars for the research facility – all courtesy of federal taxpayers, and we have nothing to show for it. This is just the start.

All these promised reactors will produce deadly radioactive waste and plutonium which will need to be isolated from the environment for a million years, as stated by industry. And by the way, no country in the world has yet solved how to isolate or neutralize nuclear fuel waste – the best they can come up with is to dig a big hole on First Nation land, dump the waste in, abandon it and hope it doesn't leak any time soon. This is the proposal the Canadian nuke industry has put forward for all of Canada's nuclear fuel waste, and they're wooing the communities between Dryden and Ignace in NW Ontario, as well as the Teeswater area in southern ON with millions of dollars in gifts.

Meanwhile, the rest of the world is going renewable. Already 16 countries are powered with 100% renewable power. (Iceland, Norway, Costa Rica, Paraguay, and so on). And 62 more countries are committed to 100% renewable power. The International Energy Agency says that 95% of new power supply over the next 5 years will come from renewables. The world will spend \$1 trillion dollars on renewables this year alone. The market is driving this transition – renewables cost a fraction of the cost of new nuclear, and they're a proven technology. According to Lazard, a large financial advisory and asset management company, wind and solar cost 3 – 4 x less than new nuclear, and also according to Lazard, wind and solar can be rolled out in one year vs. 10 – 15 years for a new nuclear reactor.

So why on earth are we focussing on nuclear rather than renewables and efficiency? In Ontario, the Doug Ford gov't, after being elected in 2018, cancelled 758 wind and solar projects, cut the conservation budget by 60%, and is discontinuing a contract with QC for low-cost renewable water power and storage. Instead, he's building 1-4 new experimental high-cost foreign SMRs, rebuilding 10 of our aging nuclear reactors, and ramping up gas power 700% – during a climate crisis.

Why does our conservative gov't hate renewables and love gas and nukes? Well they seem to have an ideological hate-on for renewables – perhaps they think green energy is a lefty elite idea, despite it being the most economical choice. But also, the Ford gov't is supporting the country's largest gas and nuclear industries – Enbridge gas, TC Energy, Cameco, Bruce Power and OPG – instead of representing the environment, or consumers, or taxpayers, or future generations that will be left with a warming climate and deadly waste.

We are in a climate crisis. The IPCC said in their most recent report that we need to reduce climate warming emissions by 50% by 2030. That means we must cut our emissions by half in 7 years! No matter how much money we throw at experimental new nuclear reactors, they're not

going to make a dent at helping us reduce our climate emissions in the next decade – if ever. In fact they're going to make it worse because we'll continue burning gas and coal while we wait for those nukes to come online.

It's eco-insanity and intergenerational injustice. We all need to ask our federal and provincial politicians across the country: Why are they choosing the highest cost and slowest option to meeting our electricity needs? We all need to engage in this issue now, before billions more are spent going down this wasteful radioactive rabbit hole. SMRs are a false climate solution, a dirty, dangerous, high-cost distraction from real climate action.