Letter re: Darlington SMR - U.S. involvement and clean wind energy option.

Dear Premier Ford and MPP Lecce, Minister of Energy and Mines, and MP Hodgson, federal Minister of Energy:

While I appreciate recent efforts to prioritize Canadian companies, like Aecon, in the now regulatory-approved Darlington SMR project, the reality is that the bulk of ownership and long-term financial returns still flow to U.S.-controlled corporations such as BWX and GE Hitachi. It begs the questions: what direction are we really headed in for our energy; which companies are "Canadian enough'; and do we mean what we say about investing in Canadian ingenuity, even if it means short term discomfort to lean into the long term goal? At a time when economic sovereignty and domestic resilience should be top priorities, continuing to hand over control of our energy future to foreign interests is cause to revisit these decisions in the short and longer term; this reactor does little to shift the balance of ownership or ensure that public investments truly serve Ontario and Canada’s long-term interests.

As Ontario and Canada face the prospect of a recession, committing billions to a long-term, capital-intensive reactor - expected to take at least five years to complete - raises serious economic questions in light of the shift caused by tariffs - if at a minimum because of the American involvement. The extended timeline means continued reliance on gas-fired power, rising emissions, and deeper dependence on U.S. fuel and technology.

Ontario doesn’t need to wait. We already have the expertise to lead in clean energy. We have the engineers, skilled tradespeople, and Canadian renewable energy firms are more than capable of delivering faster, lower-cost solutions. China showed what’s possible - rapidly scaling offshore wind in just three years, reaching 43% of its total wind output by 2017. Nova Scotia will be at 80% renewable energy by 2028 thanks to offshore wind projects. We can do even better and we could be so much closer to 100%. With the right investments, we can create good jobs, cut emissions, and build affordable, Canadian-made energy solutions that also help municipalities through the Integrated Energy Plan. In uncertain economic times, we need action that is fast, smart, and rooted in Canadian ownership.

I strongly urge increased investment in Canadian-owned companies, firms with strong international reputations in wind energy development and operations. Supporting them strengthens our energy security, grows local jobs, and accelerates our transition to a clean, sustainable future.

Over a billion federal dollars have been assigned to this one reactor project. At a time when every dollar and decision counts, how can we justify deepening reliance on foreign-owned companies instead of taking immediate steps to reduce our reliance on the U.S. and accelerate the transition to a more diversified, sustainable, and Canadian-led energy economy?

Sincerely,

(name)

(Address and postal code)