



CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DU DROIT DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

November 4, 2003

Premier Dalton McGuinty
Ontario Legislature
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Re: International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER)

At the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA), we wish to extend, again, our congratulations on your election win. We write today on a matter of urgency due to pending decisions about the proposed International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER). CELA is a founding member of the Campaign for Nuclear Phase-out and has on several occasions provided summary legal advice as well as direct representation of citizens and citizens groups involved in issues related to the nuclear industry. We have frequently expressed strong opposition to nuclear power on ethical, economic and environmental grounds and find the need to do so again with respect to the ITER project.

We urge you to reconsider your position in support of the ITER project and indeed seek your support to oppose either subsidizing this project or encouraging its development in Ontario.

ITER Canada, the proponent of the ITER project, stated at the outset of proposing this idea for Canada, that no government funding would be necessary. But, ITER Canada is now seeking an enormous subsidy of \$30 million per year for 30 years, almost \$1 billion. We have expressed strong objection to the federal government to any payment of federal tax dollars for a reactor that is purely experimental, will not produce any electricity (for at least 35 to 50 years if it ever works at all), that will contribute nothing to carbon dioxide emission reductions and that will produce 30,000 tonnes of radioactive waste, deadly for 100 years. Canada urgently needs to meet and surpass Kyoto targets by 2010. Energy efficiency programs and renewable energy are cheap, clean, and safe ways to secure Canada's energy future and meet our Kyoto obligations. Please join us in recognizing that taking 50 years and a billion dollars of public funds to run a dubiously useful experiment is energy policy that is irresponsible and unethical.

It is our understanding that the province is also considering a large contribution to the project, possibly totally \$1 billion. For the reasons above, we also strongly oppose such an action. Such monies, if applied to green energy sources, would provide a more immediate return on investment and an environmentally and economically sustainable source of energy.

We would also like to inform you that CELA will be communicating with you and Environment Minister Dombrowski shortly, together with the Pembina Institute, about work we are doing with respect to a technically and achievable energy future for Ontario that achieves coal phase out by 2007, nuclear phase out in the short term thereafter and increased reliance on sustainable energy

sources. We look forward to working with your government on appropriate energy solutions for Ontario.

Sincerely,

CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Muldoon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and "M".

Paul Muldoon
Executive Director
Ext. 219, muldoonp@lao.on.ca