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Toronto June 28, 2016

Dear Members of Council of the City of Toronto:

Thanks very much for allowing me the privilege of addressing you. My intervention is in support of the motion in front of Council that is requesting that the Government of Ontario closes Pickering Nuclear Station in 2018.

My full support is buttressed by the precautionary principle, my review of the existing nuclear emergency response plans in place, and the most recent lessons from jurisdictions that have experienced a nuclear disaster.

[The precautionary principle](#) is particularly useful to guide decision-makers when potential risks for society are very high and when scientific experts provide conflicting interpretations of reality. In short, the principle states that it is best to be safe than sorry.

The fact that the Pickering Nuclear Station was designed and built to reach its end of life by 2014 and that now nuclear engineers maintain that it can be safely operated until 2025 without any major upgrades should alert decision-makers for the need of invoking the precautionary principle to ensure that public safety is protected.

[After reviewing the Province's Nuclear Emergency Response Plan and all its related documents](#) (including the Implementing Plan For The Pickering Nuclear Generating Station and the City of Toronto Emergency Preparedness Guide) I remain deeply concerned about the safety of all of us living in the vicinity of the Pickering Nuclear Plant in case of a major nuclear accident.

Ongoing evidence from Japan, a highly developed society that is still dealing with a nuclear accident should provide an illustration of the magnitude of such catastrophes. After almost five years of the Fukushima Nuclear [Disaster tens of thousands of families are still not allowed to return to their homes](#). Furthermore, estimates by the Financial Times indicate that Japanese tax payers have paid over [\\$100 Billion](#) to try to fix that disaster.

After the Fukushima nuclear accident I invited Tetsu Iida, a former nuclear scientist that is now the director of Japan's [Institute for Sustainable Energy Policy](#), to [speak publicly in Toronto](#). During his presentation, Mr. Iida stated: "most people believe that the nuclear disaster in Fukushima happened because of an earthquake and a tsunami...but the real reason behind the disaster was that nuclear scientists and engineers firmly believed that it was impossible for such a disaster to occur".

We are facing in Toronto a very similar problem today as many experts and lobbyists, which are right now influencing decision-making in Ontario and firmly believe that a nuclear accident in Pickering is simply not possible.

It is for all of these reasons that I urge the Council of the City of Toronto to be vigilant and to choose safety and precaution over the interest of nuclear lobbyists.

Finally please remember that we have better options available today than keeping an old nuclear plant going for the next decade. Renewable energy, efficiency and community level-energy solutions can provide safe and reliable solutions that will create energy security, more jobs, and a safer Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JRE".

Dr. Jose Etcheverry Associate Professor and Co-Chair of the Sustainable Energy Initiative ([www.yorku.ca/sei](http://www.yorku.ca/sei))

