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November 26, 2015

Re: Item #10.37 – Motion on Nuclear Safety

Dear Executive Committee Members,

I am writing to express support for the call by a number of Toronto City Councillors to Toronto's City Manager, the Medical Officer of Health and the Office of Emergency Management to review matters relating to Toronto's emergency response protocols.

On November 4th, 2015 Durham Regional Council endorsed a motion that calls on the Government of Ontario to provide all non-confidential data and studies used in considering changes to Ontario's off-site nuclear emergency plans and requests the Province to consider the feasibility of expanding the 10 km primary zone.

As the cosigner of this motion, I believe that it is imperative that we ensure protection of our residents in the event of a nuclear catastrophe of the Fukushima magnitude. Although it is recognized that an accident of this magnitude is unlikely, we should not base our emergency planning on an assumption that it can never occur.

The planning basis for the 10 kilometre zone, currently used by Ontario, predates the Chernobyl accident in 1986. In the four years since the Fukushima disaster, no studies or evaluation of the adequacy of the 10 kilometre zone in providing protection for citizens in the event of a similar disaster have been published.

In stark contrast, Switzerland has incorporated the experience of the Fukushima tragedy and based their emergency plans commensurate with an accident of that scale. They conducted a public review of nuclear emergency plans, published accident modelling, and subsequently expanded the distribution of KI pills to residents within the 50 kilometre zone. Residents living within Durham Region and the Greater Toronto Area deserve no less.

The Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE) support Durham Region's motion citing health concerns based on a new epidemiological study, conducted after the Fukushima incident which found a 30 fold increase in thyroid cancer cases among children and adolescents and the highest risk being those in the 50 km to 60 km radius who were not evacuated.

I applaud the efforts of the Toronto Councillors call for the Medical Officer of Health and the Office of Emergency Management to review matters relating to Toronto's emergency response protocols and urge support of their request in order to recommend improvements to protect citizens from a catastrophic nuclear accident.

Sincerely,



Colleen Jordan
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Town of Ajax

CC

Councillor Mike Layton
Councillor Michael Thompson
Councillor Norm Kelly
Councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker
Councillor Gary Crawford
Councillor Chin Lee
Councillor Paul Ainslie
Councillor Jim Karygiannis
Councillor Ramond Cho
Councillor Michelle Berardinetti
Councillor Ron Moeser