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Hello, my name is S.F. and I'm here to express my growing concern regarding the on-going discussion of NWM.

Frankly, I entered the debate doubting the legitimacy of the Nuclear Industry, the NWMO, and the process of concept approval, and I have yet to have those doubts reassured by a sense of trust. And I know through conversations with my fellow community members that I am not alone with my impression.

In fact, my distrust has grown since my experiences attending 2 of the 3 information sessions last month. There I was, sitting with members of an organization that is supposedly seeking to inform, consult, and include the public in the process of choosing a method for disposing of a substance most people know nothing about or even know that we face problems with disposal to begin with. Yet it was fairly apparent this wasn't the organization I was supposed to be faced with. At the last meetings, some of us raised concern regarding openness, your organization's legitimacy and your industries safety records. In each instance, we received lies, heard downplayed versions of historic and technical facts or were insulted with an apparent disregard for our concerns of an ethical basis.

When questioning the legality of the transport flight of highly dangerous radioactive MOX fuel in Canadian Air space, we were told the event never even happened to the shock of many of us who read about it in various papers. The tritium pollution at Chalk River was downplayed even though tritium is a known carcinogen and mutagen. And the focus on technical questions, in comparison to the fluff for answer to ethical questions, displayed the arrogant front of the NWMO. Now this no doubt sounds like a response from an organization attempting to play the public.

In preparation for my presentation today, I did some research to reference the points I made above. As a result, a quick Internet search brought nearly 3 dozen reports of Canadian nuclear accidents to my attention. Reports from the Montreal Gazette, Nucleonics Week, Toronto Star, Oshawa Times and other publications highlighted many instances of excessive amounts of radioactive waste water leaking into Lake Huron, Lake Ontario and the Ottawa River, fires and partial meltdowns at reactor sites, the town of Port Hope and a parking lot in Calgary being built on radio active landfills, companies selling radioactive landfill, employee exposure, incinerators emitting radioactive hydrogen, carbon, and iodine gases, uranium refineries releasing radioactive uranium into the air after mishandling fuel bundles, and the list goes on and on.

There is popular quote by Albert Einstein, who is deemed by many as one of the wisest men of contemporary times, it reads:

"The splitting of the atom has changed everything save our modes of thinking and thus we drift toward unparalleled catastrophe."

It's time for the scientific community to stop thinking that environmental pollution is an acceptable norm, that the consequences of our actions today should be masked with lies until it is dealt with tomorrow, that manipulation of public opinion is acceptable as a means of introducing new scientific projects, or that the public should be expected to put blind trust in official experts who stake there claim as self appointed authority figures.

I'm here today, being asked as I was last month, to put my trust into an organization who's mandate it is to safeguard the health of my children as well of that of the environment, my community and the planet. An organization that has been appointed through legislation by a government that embodies research, development and marketing of nuclear reactors. An organization that is comprised entirely of an industry with a deplorable history of pollution, lies, manipulation and suffering. As expected, I'll be leaving here today with an immense feeling of disgust and shame that we have been ridiculed by the presence of such a bogus organization.

But I take comfort in knowing that I will leave tonight with the reassurance that with community solidarity and a growing national interest in nuclear waste, we will one day come up with a legitimate solution that is not driven by self interested parties looking to keep a publicly unsupported industry alive. I also take comfort in knowing that the Canadian public will one day come to a solution to the problem of nuclear waste management after having fully participated, and been included, in a fair and open decision making process. Not like the facade I participated in tonight.

It is in this way that we can avoid Albert Einstein rolling over in his grave in response to his nightmare of drifting toward an unparalleled catastrophe becoming a reality.

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