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The Rt Hon David Cameron MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London  
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Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing to you because we believe that you are being badly advised by DECC about the political and economic risks in the government's current policy on nuclear power. The combination of the anniversary of Fukushima and the imminent introduction of the Energy Bill will bring this policy under more intense scrutiny. We do not believe it will withstand this scrutiny and that there is now a growing risk of policy failure.

The attached note sets out the advice we believe you should be receiving. It warns:

- That the government is effectively in the process of handing over control of Britain's future energy and climate security to the government of France.
- That the French will only proceed if the large financial risks of new nuclear build are transferred from France to British households and businesses.
- That the policy measures needed to guarantee investment in new nuclear require the replacement of our liberalised electricity market with a centrally planned system – effectively undoing Mrs Thatcher's privatisation.
- That there is no reason to expect that Areva will be able to construct new reactors on time and to budget. Two reactors currently under construction by Areva are four years late and cost twice as much as projected. The four previous reactors they built took an average of 17.5 years from the start of construction to the delivery of the first electricity.
- That there is a growing risk that Centrica will not take up its 20% option leaving two French companies – Areva and EDF - as the primary beneficiaries of large subsidies from Britain's householders and businesses.
- That the French have been advised by their own National Audit Office and the former head of EDF, Francois Rousseley, to abandon the type of reactor they are proposing to build here as too complex and expensive.
- That the case that we must accept these risks on energy security grounds has collapsed.
- That while the costs of our present policy are concrete, immediate and will escalate over time, the benefits are intangible, remote and will almost certainly prove illusory.
- That viable options are available to meet our energy and climate security needs at much lower economic and political risk and will create predominantly British jobs and growth.

We currently find ourselves with a nuclear dependent policy in which we have no choice but to force our householders and businesses pay whatever price foreign-owned utilities ask. Far from being a path to energy and climate security it will disadvantage Britain as the world decarbonises.

Nuclear costs are rising consistently in real terms whereas those for the renewables and energy efficiency have fallen far faster than was anticipated even in this decade. That fall will accelerate as the aftermath of Fukushima drives even greater investment renewables and energy efficiency in Germany, Japan and elsewhere.

We believe that continuing with the present policy will seriously distort our electricity market for decades to come, reduce the competitiveness of British businesses, add to fuel poverty and suppress innovation and investment in industries where Britain has real competitive advantage.

We understand there will be a natural reticence to abandon a high profile policy that has been pursued for some years, but our advice is that making this difficult choice now would be a better option than being forced into doing so later by decisions that are not in your hands.

Yours faithfully,



**Jonathon Porritt**



**Tom Burke**



**Tony Juniper**



**Charles Secrett**

Cc: In view of the wide public interest in this issue and its implications across government we are copying this letter to:

- The Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP, Deputy Prime Minister
- The Rt Hon George Osborne MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer
- The Rt Hon Edward Davey MP, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change
- The Rt Hon Vince Cable MP, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills
- Sir Jeremy Heywood, Cabinet Secretary
- the media.