

Dear Jon,

Thank you for writing to the office of Andrea Horwath.

New Democrats share your concerns regarding Path 2 of the Technical Standards and Safety Association (TSSA) Risk Management Safety Plan.

Despite opposition from their own Operating Engineers Advisory Council, a volunteer panel consisting of industry experts, the TSSA has quietly launched an online consultation right in the middle of a global pandemic that would allow power plants to choose “alternate rules,” for their Risk Safety Management Plans. Under these “alternate rules,” power plants could submit their own safety plans to be overseen by the TSSA, a private organization, rather than follow safety regulations enacted by the government. The Institute of Power Engineers has said that this plan, “basically amounts to self-regulation.”

By moving forward on regulatory changes to the Technical Standards and Safety Act (2002), the Ontario government is taking our province further down the risky path of industry self-regulation, undermining safety rules that apply to boilers, turbines and other critical systems for generating stations and industrial plants. In doing so, the government is applying the same sort of short-sighted thinking that led to the Walkerton tragedy.

New Democrats believe that public safety should not be put into private hands and that any attempt to sneak these changes through during a pandemic is completely irresponsible. We are calling on the government to immediately reverse course and stop the TSSA from continuing to pursue Path 2 and, instead, work with industry experts on a solution that doesn't compromise the safety of Ontarians.

Thanks again for contacting our office with your concerns if you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

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