Dear British Columbia Utilities Commission,

I am writing because I am strongly opposed to the construction of the Site C dam even though considerable money has already been invested in the project. The project has serious financial and environmental problems, and runs counter to the goal of seeking reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

In my opinion the dam is simply not necessary in order to produce electricity. Most of this energy was to be devoted to fracking and the development of LNG. Fracking can simply not be supported from a responsible environmental viewpoint. From an environmental perspective, the creation of the dam would have serious effects upon the wildlife which relies on these lands as a migratory corridor.

I am also deeply concerned about the loss of highly valuable farmland which is a true rarity at such a longitude. Productive land that could feed so many people locally is so much more responsible than the alternative - importing more food from distant lands thereby increasing our carbon footprint.

The financial costs of continuing with construction are just too high. According to a report prepared for your commission by Deloitte, there is a growing chance that the project will go significantly over-budget. Rather than spend so much money on a dam we don't need, the lowest cost option is to just cancel the dam.

There are better alternatives. BC can meet all its energy needs through building retrofits, energy efficiency, and investing in renewable energy. The BC NDP's own Power BC plan lays out how we can create more jobs and better value.

The project does not have the consent of the Treaty 8 First Nations. This project will have a devastating impact on the treaty and Aboriginal rights of Treaty 8 First Nations. The project will eliminate these First Nations' ability to continue their way of life and will severely curtail their treaty-protected constitutional rights to hunt, fish, trap, harvest and carry out their practices on their land.

The Site C Dam is clearly not in the public interest. Please recommend to the BC Government that this project be canceled.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Richard Carton