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OPEN LETTER

To the President of the Republic of Lithuania Dalia Grybauskaitė

To the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania

Lüchow, 5 November 2012

ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REFERENDUM RESULT

Dear President Dalia Grybauskaitė,

Dear Members of the Parliament,

On October 14, 2012 Lithuania had a referendum asking citizens whether or not they want a new nuclear power station in their country. More than half of the voters participated in the referendum and the majority of them said “NO”. Even though the referendum was called “consultative”, the results are legally binding according to the Law on Referendum.

However, public declarations of leading political parties and the President raise concerns to both local and international members of civil society as politicians express their continuing support to the nuclear project and show ignorance to referendum results. It concerns the authors of this Open Letter that Lithuanian Parliament may not implement the results of the referendum despite the fact that they are legally obliged to do so. It would be

unconstitutional to ignore people's decision to become a nuclear-free country and continue the talks with "Hitachi-GE" on the construction of the new nuclear power plant in Visaginas.

We write this letter urging you to implement the results of the referendum as well as focus on energy efficiency and transition to local renewable energy. To do the opposite would violate the Constitution and the Law on Referendum.

Article 8 of the Law on Referendum of the Republic of Lithuania stipulates:

1. A consultative (deliberative) referendum shall be deemed as having taken place if over one half of the citizens, who are eligible and have been registered in electoral rolls, have taken part in it.

*2. In the event, that over one half of the voters have taken part in the referendum and at least one half of those voters who have participated, have been in favour of the resolution, the resolution shall be deemed as having been adopted. **The issue of the conducting of this referendum must be deliberated in the Seimas according to the procedure established by the Seimas Statute, within one month from its announcement.***

3. In the event when fewer voters have taken part in the referendum, than has been stipulated in paragraph one of this Article, it shall be deemed that the referendum has not taken place, and the voter's opinion voiced during its course, may be considered in the Seimas during the deliberation of laws and other draft legal acts.

The nation has decided not to accept unnecessary risks and costs of nuclear energy. You are obliged to implement the decision, as the extract of the Law on Referendum above shows. Therefore, we urge you to pass the necessary legal acts, as a matter of urgency. Once this step is performed, Lithuania can focus on energy efficiency and renewable energy sources to achieve energy security and low-carbon economy without the high risks and costs associated with the nuclear energy.

Yours sincerely,

Bürgerinitiative Umweltschutz Lüchow-Dannenberg e.V. and ŽALI.LT

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