

February 10, 2023

House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment

Subject: HB 2215

My name is Kathryn A. Higley, here today to offer testimony in regard to HB 2215. While Oregon State University (OSU) does not have a position on the legislation, we would like to offer our expertise to the Committee and the State as you consider this policy.

I served as Head of the OSU School of Nuclear Science and Engineering for a decade. I hold a PhD in Radiological Health Sciences, I am the OSU Distinguished Professor of Nuclear Science and Engineering, a Fellow of the Health Physics Society, a Certified Health Physicist, and currently serve as the Interim Director of the Center for Quantitative Life Sciences.

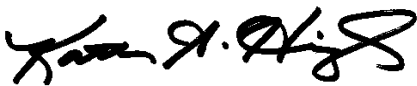
In 1980 Oregon voters approved the Nuclear Waste Facilities Amendment, also known as Measure 7, as an initiated state statute. That measure delayed the construction of nuclear power plants in Oregon until the Federal government established a permanent disposal site for the waste generated by them. It also required that a site certificate for locating a nuclear power plant in Oregon be subject to statewide voter approval. The United States does not yet have a repository for high-level commercial nuclear waste, instead it relies on onsite dry cask storage. However other countries have identified sites and are engaged in the development of nuclear waste repositories. In 2016 Finland approved the creation of the world's first permanent repository which is nearing completion.

OSU's School of Nuclear Science and Engineering is a nationally recognized program that provides cutting edge research in nuclear reactor design and safety. We have done research in nuclear waste separations chemistry. We are internationally recognized for our efforts to understand the fate, transport, and risk of radionuclides and the means to protect both people and the environment. We actively engage in communication and outreach regarding issues related to nuclear safety and radiological risk. Our students are employed in all aspects of the nuclear world: engineering firms, national laboratories, academic institutions, medical facilities, national defense, and government agencies. The NuScale small modular reactor design arose from the research of our faculty, led by Dr. Jose Reyes, Professor Emeritus of Nuclear Engineering at OSU. He is the founder of NuScale Power and was elected to the National Academy of Engineers. The faculty, staff, and students from OSU routinely provide support to the State of Oregon in responding to potential radiological emergencies within and beyond the State.

All of this is meant to highlight the resources that OSU can offer to the State of Oregon in the area of nuclear safety, environmental impact, and public outreach.

I am happy to address any question you may have now, or in the future.

Sincerely,



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