



February 13, 2023

Chair Pam Marsh  
Vice Chair Bobby Levy  
Vice Chair Emerson Levy  
House Committee on Climate, Energy & Environment  
900 Court Street NW  
Salem, Oregon 97301

**RE: Support for HB 2215, Relating to nuclear-fueled thermal power plants.**

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice Chair Bobby Levy, Vice Chair Emerson Levy, and Members of the Committee:

Oregon Municipal Electric Utilities Association (OMEU) is made up of eleven municipally owned and operated electric utilities. The Oregon People's Utility District Association (OPUDA) includes all of Oregon's six PUDs. The Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association (ORECA) represents 18 electric cooperatives. As consumer-owned utilities (COUs) we are directly accountable to the people we serve through our city councils and local governing boards. Our rates are not-for-profit and set to cover the costs of service, not to earn a rate of return for investors.

Oregon's COUs support HB 2215. If Oregon is serious about meeting our carbon-free energy goals, all non-carbon resources should be on the table. We will need a suite of solutions to address climate impacts. Achieving our state's 100% clean energy goal is a tremendous challenge that will require tools like small modular reactors (SMRs). Unlike intermittent solar and wind, nuclear provides baseload power; this is extremely important for reliability as coal and natural gas plants come off-line.

The Federal government, recognizing the importance of nuclear to our clean energy future and our country's energy security, has been investing to accelerate the development of SMRs. Recently, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission approved NuScale Power's SMR design. (NuScale, a global leader in SMR technology, is an Oregon-based company.)

The time is now to revisit the question of nuclear energy in Oregon. We thank the sponsors for bringing this measure forward and the committee for beginning an important conversation.

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