

Submitter: Jane Stackhouse

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2215

Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Bobbie Levy and Emerson Levy and members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy and the Environment.

I oppose HB 2215. Oregonians settled the question of nuclear waste and nothing has changed in the years since. Yes there are smaller reactors that we are told generate less waste because they are more fuel efficient. Yes nuclear energy does not emit CO2. However, "radioactive isotopes eventually decay, or disintegrate, to harmless materials. Some isotopes decay in hours or even minutes, but others decay very slowly. Strontium-90 and cesium-137 have half-lives of about 30 years (half the radioactivity will decay in 30 years). Plutonium-239 has a half-life of 24,000 years". (<https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/fact-sheets/radwaste.html>).

When I look at the havock caused by CO2 that has a half life of 100 years, I know we are not able to manage plutonium 239 with a half-life of 24,000 years. We are still struggling with the leaching of nuclear waste from Hanford into ground water and rivers. Until there is a reliable method to store nuclear reactor waste, we should not be building more nuclear reactors because we have wind, solar, and wave technologies.

Please do no pass HB 2215.

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