

Submitter: Inga Fisher Williams

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2215

To

Chair and Members of House Committee Climate, Energy and Environment

Re HB 2215

From

Inga Fisher Williams

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Portland, Oregon

My following comments are in opposition to HB 2215 and I request they be made part of the hearing record on this bill in lieu of a personal appearance before the committee.

There is yet another effort to circumvent the provisions of the voter approved limit on nuclear power expansion in Oregon. For over four decades Oregonians have been protected from new atomic power plants and their toxic wastes which are stored mainly on-site as there is no acceptable national solution for the by product of splitting the atom for energy generation.

For many past legislative sessions, similar bills have been introduced to subvert the decision of the voters, each effort carrying the water for NuScale, a OSU spin off touting the merits of modular reactors. In an end-run over existing Oregon procedures, the bills are seeking to permit local jurisdictions to make decisions for siting approval raising the spectre of random constructions permitted by counties who may in their zeal for economic development wish to accommodate large box retailers or small industrial parks seeking their own power generating facility. Spreading randomly as a result not just small reactors but also storage pools of spent nuclear fuel filled with toxic radioactive wastes that must be guarded for hundreds if not thousands of years. Can one imagine a more irresponsible way for putting Oregonians at risk?

One might argue that nothing has changed in nuclear technology or radioactive waste management to warrant overturning the voters' decision on curbing expansion of this hazardous technology, so hazardous in fact that the atomic industry asked for and received a Congressional limit on liability in case of accidents, the Price Anderson Act.

But there are significant changes, albeit not in the nuclear industry. We now know from experience that the exposure to radiation shortens the lifetime of materials used to build and operate these plants, including concrete and special metals for casings,

rods, etc. inside the reactor. We know that as a standard practice this industry as have others walked away from managing wastes, leaving it to government and by extension the voters to finance. The radioactive core of the decommissioned Trojan plant was shipped to Hanford for US government storage.

Do we not have enough Superfund sites already? And cleanup for past industrial misdeeds has fallen behind as the industry's financial contribution to the fund are totally inadequate to the task.

The changes that HAVE materialized since the ill-fated WPPS debacle so many decades ago are clean, renewable fuel energy developments at much lower costs. None of them bear the burden of toxic waste and the costs to safe guard them for thousands of years.

Why would we favor a return to the past with a technology that has always been ill advised?

I urge you to decline to support HB 2215 and any similar legislation.

Inga Fisher Williams