

Submitter: Heather Gray

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2215

Support HB 2215!

Oregon's electrical energy needs and demand for clean energy have increased, the demand for clean, and nuclear power technology has dramatically improved. It's clean. Other countries in the world use nuclear (don't build them right on a geologic fault). It's the only feasible option for our future.

We have seen that wind & solar are insufficient. Land-based wind power is at capacity. Large wind turbines kill birds and freeze in colder temperatures (Texas, February 2021) - no electricity for heat or to drive your car away. Solar panels degrade; there's nothing environmentally friendly about their disposal; they depend on mining hazardous metals in other countries.

A 600MWe Small Modular Reactor (SMR) plant requires just 20 acres of land, and can generate that power 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The equivalent solar farm requires about 2,700 acres and only generates that power when the sun is shining. SMR technology is extremely safe, compact, & scaleable.

Oregon gets ~25% of electricity from coal power generated in other states. Fifteen 20-acre SMR plants, on just 300 acres of land, would replace all of our coal. The same with solar requires over 40,900 acres of land, plus acreage and equipment for storage devices like battery banks for when the sun isn't shining.

Consider additional power needed for the future. The radically smaller SMR footprint frees up land for housing, manufacturing, farming, recreation, & wildlife.

Imagine massive amounts of clean hydrogen generated 24/7 from nuclear power. Or a nuclear-powered desalinization plant providing millions of gallons of fresh drinking and irrigation water. Nuclear power is amazing & opens many possibilities.

Oregon is leading the way designing and developing this next generation of nuclear power. NuScale, one of the leading SMR companies in the world, is based here, from technology developed at Oregon State University.

Oregon can lead the way in design, development, & implementation of the next generation of nuclear.