



# Representative Bobby Levy

*Serving Umatilla, Union & Wallowa Counties*

Hello Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Levy, fellow members of the committee,

For the Record I am Representative Bobby Levy from House District 58, and I am here to testify in support of House Bil 2215.

According to the US Department of Energy, nuclear power is the largest source of clean power in the United States. It generates nearly 800 billion kilowatt hours of electricity each year and produces more than half of the nation's emissions-free electricity. This avoids more than 470 million metric tons of carbon each year, which is the equivalent of removing 100 million cars off the road.

The nuclear industry supports nearly half a million jobs in the United States and contributes an estimated \$60 billion to the U.S. gross domestic product each year. U.S. nuclear plants can employ up to 700 workers with salaries that are 30% higher than the local average. They also contribute billions of dollars annually to local economies through federal and state tax revenues.

A strong civilian nuclear sector is essential to U.S. national security and energy diplomacy. The United States must maintain its global leadership in this arena to influence the peaceful use of nuclear technologies.

HB 2215 invites the people of Oregon into a conversation about improving the nuclear energy environment in the Pacific Northwest. This act would propose the removal of requirements that adequate repository for terminal disposition of high-level radioactive waste be licensed as precondition for issuance of site certificate for nuclear-fueled thermal power plant. It would also proposal the removal of the requirement that proposed site certificate for nuclear-fueled thermal power plant be submitted to electors of this state for approval or rejection. I urge the Committee to support this legislation so that the people can decide at the ballot box in 2024.

Best,  
Rep. Bobby Levy, HD 58

