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On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2215

I am submitting position statements from 3 national organizations to supplement the testimony that I submitted on February 20, 2023.

Thank you,  
Bonnie McKinlay

Physicians for Social Responsibility: "Nuclear Power Is Not A Safe Alternative To Fossil Fuels"

"Nuclear weapons aren't the only nuclear threat to public health. Nuclear power is dangerous to human health, and it is not a source of safe or clean energy. For decades, PSR health professionals have drawn attention to the health impacts of nuclear power and nuclear power plants, including the dangers to nearby communities. The climate crisis is a health emergency, and fossil fuels are a major contributor to climate change.

As leaders seek alternative sources of energy, some are pointing to nuclear power as a feasible alternative to oil and gas and dirty fossil fuels. Unfortunately, nuclear power is just as dirty and unsafe, as research by PSR and other partner organizations has shown."

Sierra Club Position: Nuclear Free Future"

"The Sierra Club remains unequivocally opposed to nuclear energy. Although nuclear plants have been in operation for less than 60 years, we now have seen three serious disasters. Tragically, it took a horrific disaster in Japan to remind the world that none of the fundamental problems with nuclear power have ever been addressed.

Besides reactor safety, both nuclear proliferation and the required long-term storage of nuclear waste (which remains lethal for more than 100,000 years) make nuclear power a uniquely dangerous energy technology for humanity. Nuclear is no solution to Climate Change and every dollar spent on nuclear is one less dollar spent on truly safe, affordable and renewable energy sources. Help us work to phase out nuclear as quickly as possible."

Greenpeace Position: Nuclear Power Is Dirty, Dangerous and Expensive. Say No to New Nukes.

"Nuclear energy has no place in a safe, clean, sustainable future. Nuclear energy is both expensive and dangerous, and just because nuclear pollution is invisible doesn't mean it's clean. Renewable energy is better for the environment, the economy, and doesn't come with the risk of a nuclear meltdown.

Greenpeace got its start protesting nuclear weapons testing back in 1971. We've

been fighting against nuclear weapons and nuclear power ever since. High profile disasters in Chernobyl, Ukraine in 1986 and Fukushima, Japan in 2011 have raised public awareness of the dangers of nuclear power. Consequently, zeal for nuclear energy has fizzled. The catastrophic risks of nuclear energy — like the meltdowns of nuclear reactors in Japan or Ukraine — far outweigh the potential benefits.

New nuclear plants are more expensive and take longer to build than renewable energy sources like wind or solar. If we are to avoid the most damaging impacts of climate change, we need solutions that are fast and affordable. Nuclear power is neither.

We can do better than trading off one disaster for another. The nuclear age is over and the age of renewables has begun.

### The Dangers of Nuclear Energy

Meltdowns like the ones in Fukushima or Chernobyl released enormous amounts of radiation into the surrounding communities, forcing hundreds of thousands of people to evacuate. Many of them may never come back. If the industry's current track record is any indication, we can expect a major meltdown about once per decade.

The possibility of a catastrophic accident at a U.S. nuclear plant can not be dismissed.

There is still no safe, reliable solution for dealing with the radioactive waste produced by nuclear plants. Every waste dump in the U.S. leaks radiation into the environment, and nuclear plants themselves are running out of ways to store highly radioactive waste on site. The site selected to store the U.S.'s radioactive waste — Yucca Mountain in Nevada — is both volcanically and seismically active. Beyond the risks associated with nuclear power and radioactive waste, the threat of nuclear weapons looms large..."