

Submitter: Doris Cellarius
On Behalf Of: self
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure: HB2215

Testimony on HB 2215.

I urge the Oregon Legislature to oppose HB 2215, a bill that would overturn the will of the people of Oregon established by ballot measure in 1980. That 1980 measure prohibited the construction of nuclear power plants in Oregon until an adequate, national high level radioactive waste repository is federally licensed, and then the proposed nuclear plant in Oregon would be subject to statewide voter approval. If HB 2215 becomes law and is passed by Oregon voters, it would allow the siting and operation of commercial nuclear power plants in Oregon, even though there is no federally licensed repository for its high-level nuclear waste.

Please oppose them because -

- **Environmental Justice:** Nuclear energy is extractive energy, and not part of a Just Transition. The vast majority of uranium mining in the US and around the world has been done on Indigenous land with Indigenous communities suffering from the health impacts. Nuclear production and waste storage often occurs near low-income communities and communities of color. Nuclear energy is a false solution to the climate crisis
- **Too Expensive:** Nuclear Reactors, including Small Modular Nuclear Reactors (SMNRs) are prohibitively expensive and take enormous amounts of money away from proven, cost-effective clean energy sources such as solar and wind.
- **Creates Radioactive Waste:** the U.S. still doesn't have a site for safe disposal of nuclear waste and will not for the foreseeable future. SMNRs create more radioactive waste per kilowatt of electricity generated than conventional nuclear reactors. Many Oregon communities are downriver from the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, the most toxic clean up site in the Western hemisphere, thanks to nuclear waste. The last thing we need to do is create more of this waste here in Oregon.
- **Safety:** All reactors are prone to accidents and disasters, like the case in Fukushima in 2011. It's not worth the safety risk.

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