

Testimony Opposing HB2215

Oregon Legislative Assembly – House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment

2.12.2023 3pm and 2.20.2023 3pm

Shiq'Puchway. Good Day. I am Cathy Sampson Kruse, I am an enrolled member of the Walla Walla Tribe. I am not an elected official. These words are mine and mine alone. Go with me on a brief journey...

Let's start around 1800. Our headman, Yellowbird was born in our Walla Walla Valley. My father's people. By the 1850's our people gathered for the great Treaty Council which promised peace to the homelands...but some after: Yellowbird, PeoPeoMoxMox, was murdered under a white flag of peace by the Oregon Militia. His body mutilated and put on display at his capitol. Statehood had been accomplished. By the early 1900's the Wright and McDonald's, my great-great grandparents on my mother's side settled near Bull Prairie in the Hardman-Heppner area.

In 1954, I was born. Alima' a half-breed. We all have such a rich complicated history.

The circle continues to today. We watch our sons and daughters play basketball in the same Echo Cougar Quonset hut gym. We still travel to our root digging and hunting grounds to play ball at lone, Crane, Dufur, and the backside of the Blues...Cove and the Wallowa's. All OUR Homelands. We are all a people who love this land, air and water. We are all a TREATY people whose ancestors, not so many years ago made a binding promise, in fact, the US Constitution says it's the 'supreme law of the land'.

I have several notations below to include in my testimony. The nine federally recognized Tribes of Oregon, as well as the Affiliated Tribes of NorthWest Indians, have opposed Small Modular Nuclear Reactors. Uphold those promises. Our water, medicines, our roots and berries, our fish and game.

Our Na-ti-tayt People. We are all ONE with the homelands of Nixyaa'wi.

To close, this is my beautiful granddaughter Juniper and her buddy from preschool. (my photo)

This little native girl and this little cowboy...doesn't it just warm your heart!

Think of their great-grandchildren and yours.

Think of this 223 year old story told by one old Kuthla/Grama from the Walla Walla Tribe.

Protect the Sacred. Stop False Solutions of Nuclear Energy NOW. Aye'

Kwal'iism cha'na....we are still here.

Cathy Sampson-Kruse, Old wey-ow'sux,



Waluulapum Tribal elder x-603 Enrolled CTUIR

Eldest daughter of Marian Arleta Sampson and at'way Carl Sampson, PeoPeoMoxMox

Cc: Board of Trustees, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), Chairs of, Affiliated Tribes of NW Indians (ATNI), and National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)

Attachment: ATNI Resolution #19-10 3pgs.



## **2019 Winter Convention Portland Oregon**

### **RESOLUTION #19 – 10**

#### **“OPPOSING OREGON SENATE BILL 444 AND ANY OTHER NEW NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS IN OREGON”**

#### **PREAMBLE**

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties, Executive Orders, and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise to promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

**WHEREAS**, ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and tribes in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of the ATNI; and

**WHEREAS**, since time immemorial, our economy, culture, religions and way of life has been centered around our fishing, hunting, and gathering resources, and the lands and waters upon which they depend, and we have been and remain careful and conscientious stewards over them to ensure their continued health and well-being; and

**WHEREAS**, ATNI member Tribes depend on the natural resources of this region to sustain our way of life, rights to fish, hunt and gather, our economies, human health and fulfill our sacred obligation to protect our First Foods and our most precious natural resources, water; and

**WHEREAS**, ATNI member Tribes work tirelessly to protect tribal members health, safety, welfare, and futures both within and external to tribal reservations; and

**WHEREAS**, ATNI member Tribes recognize that, notwithstanding new smaller modular designs being developed in North America, all nuclear power requires nuclear fuel and generates nuclear waste; and

**WHEREAS**, uranium mining, nuclear power and nuclear weapons production, and nuclear waste disposal has occurred in areas within or in close proximity to tribal lands without significant input or consideration of tribal interests or rights; and

**WHEREAS**, the nuclear fuel cycle poses significant risks to human safety, human health, sacred foods & medicines, homelands, waterways, and the air relied upon by ATNI tribes due to its long-lived toxicity; and

**WHEREAS**, Oregon law currently prohibits the construction of nuclear power plants in Oregon until "an adequate repository for the disposal of the high-level radioactive waste produced by the plant has been licensed to operate by the appropriate agency of the federal government" (ORS 469.595). If such a high-level radioactive waste repository is federally licensed, then the proposed nuclear plant in Oregon is subject to statewide voter approval (ORS 469.597); and

**WHEREAS**, Oregon Senate Bill 444 would change Oregon's law to allow Oregon cities and counties to pass ordinances allowing nuclear reactors of 300 megawatts or less in their jurisdiction without a permanent repository for the high-level radioactive waste they would create; and

**WHEREAS**, Oregon Senate Bill 444 would also bypass the current requirement for statewide voter approval for new nuclear reactors in the state of Oregon; and

**WHEREAS**, current Oregon laws provide important protections for tribal communities and the resources they rely upon who may face contamination from the construction and operation of new nuclear power plants and risks from orphaned nuclear waste; and

**WHEREAS**, radioactive waste from the shuttered Trojan Nuclear Power Plant remains stored on the shores of the Columbia River, a testament to the difficulty of identifying a permanent repository for high-level nuclear waste; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI opposes Senate Bill 444; and

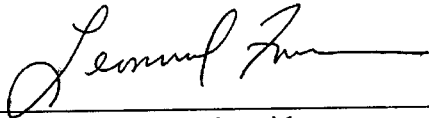
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that ATNI hereby supports the basic principle that new nuclear power plants must demonstrate the availability of a deep geologic repository for high-level waste before gaining approval; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that ATNI has identified that nuclear waste often places a disproportionate pollution burden on tribal communities, and a county-level or city-level vote may not be the appropriate forum to address these challenges; and

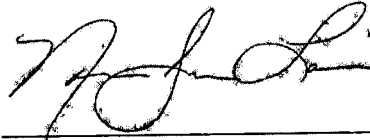
**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that ATNI calls upon the 2019 Oregon Legislature to reject Senate Bill 444 and any other new nuclear power plants in Oregon.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2019 Winter Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the DoubleTree by Hilton - Portland, Oregon, on January 28-31, 2019, with a quorum present.



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Leonard Forsman, President



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Norma Jean Louie, Secretary