

Submitter: Peter Bergel

On Behalf Of: Oregon PeaceWorks

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure: HB4090

Madame Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in opposition to HB 4090 as it currently stands.

My name is Peter Bergel and I live in Salem, OR. I was co-author and Campaign Director of Ballot Measure 7, which was passed by Oregon's voters in 1980. It requires that an operating federal nuclear waste repository exist and an affirmative vote of the people of Oregon precede any future siting of nuclear power plants in Oregon.

HB 4090 as written would cut the heart out of this voter-approved measure by permitting the siting of a nuclear power plant on federal land in Oregon without meeting the measure's requirement that the Energy Facility Siting Council find that a federal nuclear waste facility is in operation.

I note that Chair Fahey has submitted a 4090-1 amendment which explicitly says "Is not a nuclear power plant;". That is much better – assuming it is added to the bill, but if this bill is not a stealth attempt to sneak small modular nuclear power plants into Oregon, then I cannot quite understand what its purpose is.

I believe it would be unwise to remove any energy project from Energy Facility Siting Council jurisdiction. The Council has the expertise and history to fully consider issues surrounding energy facilities; that was what it was created to do. It should be allowed to do its job.

Therefore, I ask this committee to vote against sending this bill to the floor without the -1 amendment and to consider very carefully whether to advance it even with the -1 amendment.

Thank you.

Peter Bergel