



Crook County

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February 25, 2025

Subject: Support for House Bill 2410 – Consideration of Nuclear Energy in Oregon's Clean Energy Future

Committee: House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment

I'm reaching out as a proud representative of Crook County, a place deeply rooted in tradition and community, to voice strong support for House Bill 2410. This bill opens the door for advanced nuclear technologies like small modular reactors (SMRs), which are vital for our state's clean energy future. It's a prime chance for Oregon to update its energy approach to one that's both sustainable and resilient.

HB 2410 would specifically allow a pilot project for an SMR in Umatilla County, letting the Energy Facility Siting Council consider new possibilities for nuclear energy sites. This is a key move against the old bans that have kept Oregon from tapping into nuclear power's full potential, even though it supplies almost half the carbon-free electricity that powers our nation.

Small modular reactors are at the forefront of nuclear technology, offering greater safety, streamlined designs, and cost efficiency through scaled production. These features position SMRs to effectively meet the Northwest's growing power needs, expected to surge by over 30% in the next decade.

Moreover, integrating such cutting-edge nuclear solutions with our existing renewable energy resources can lower overall energy costs and provide a steady power supply. With Oregon's lofty clean energy goals, it's critical we keep all effective technologies in play to ensure energy remains reliable, affordable, and sustainable.

Umatilla County is ready to lead with a demonstration project, showcasing local leaders' dedication to meeting our burgeoning energy needs with innovative, clean technologies. This effort is not only in line with Oregon's economic plans but also respects our commitment to community input, ensuring that local opinions shape the project from the ground up.

I urge you to back HB 2410, not merely as a change in policy but as a pledge to Oregon's clean, prosperous energy future. Let's boldly embrace technologies that promise substantial economic gains and a sustainable way forward.

Thank you for considering this vital bill. I look forward to a favorable response and am excited about Oregon setting a national example in adopting advanced nuclear energy solutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Barney", written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Brian Barney
County Commissioner