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On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2410

My name is David Johanson, and I am a lifelong resident of Columbia County, Oregon. I lived here in the 70's and 80's when the Trojan nuclear power plant was operating, and joined the Naval Nuclear Power program with the intention of working there when I got out. Unfortunately, the plant did not remain online, so that was not a possibility.

Ever since I got out of the Navy, I have been following the progression of nuclear power in the United States, and around the world. The advancements that have been made are astounding. Nuclear reactors are no longer the huge footprint plants that have so many inherent problems. There are many prototypes of package reactors now that have a small footprint and could fit within a city block or smaller. They are also more reliable and have less chance of catastrophic failure than the older, larger iterations.

I am, and have been, a proponent of nuclear power for many years now. I believe that these small reactors are the solution to a couple of issues we now face. They would improve the local infrastructure allowing for the large influx of electric vehicles and their charging stations. Our infrastructure currently cannot handle the number of stations needed for a mostly electric society. They would also make our power grid much more reliable, in that we wouldn't be dependent on large high voltage transmission lines bringing our power from great distances. These are subject to failure and also have been proven to be the cause of many of the wildfires over the last few years.

One other thing about modern nuclear power. It is environmentally friendlier than it used to be, and friendlier than some of the other options. Every power generating type has its own issues. Hydroelectric dams are blocking the migration of the native fish. Wind Power is affecting the bird migration as well as disrupting the air currents. Coal and natural gas fired plants are putting CO2 and other emissions into our atmosphere. The list goes on. There will always be someone who finds fault in ANY type of power generation, but modern nuclear power creates much less waste, and that waste is not like the large quantities of waste on the past that is now sitting buried in some concrete lined bunker somewhere.

I am sure there are many more good arguments for the use of nuclear power in the future of our country. These happen to be the ones at the forefront of my thoughts currently.