

Submitter: Stephen Cutler

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2038

Nuclear is not a “clean” or “safe” source of power for Oregon:

Nuclear energy is one of the most expensive energy sources, far outstripping the cost-effectiveness of renewables. Studies show nuclear power is at least five times more expensive than renewable energy. Nuclear projects are also notorious for massive cost overruns and delays, with taxpayers and ratepayers ultimately footing the bill.

Each reactor carries the potential for catastrophic accidents, a risk amplified by extreme weather and human error. Small Modular Nuclear Reactors are experimental and untested in the U.S, with only three operating worldwide and all underperforming. This technology is not worth the risk.

Nuclear plants produce toxic waste that pose long-term hazards, with no permanent repository solution in sight, leaving Oregon holding the bag when it comes to storing hazardous waste.

Promises of new nuclear reactors are largely hype, as they won't come online for another 10 to 15 years, all while tech companies continue to burn fossil fuels powering their data centers and AI and diverting crucial resources from the renewable solutions we need now.

Please pursue other forms of clean, renewable energy. Thank you.