

Good morning Representative Lively and members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment. My name is Max Menchaca, and I live in Portland. I strongly urge the committee to please **OPPOSE** and **REJECT HB 2038**, as this bill is a complete waste of taxpayer resources, let alone completely pointless given the state's existing moratorium on nuclear energy. There are so many pressing issues concerning our state that the legislature should consider in the 2025 session. Why should valuable resources be spent trying to study the points in this bill, most of which already have clear answers?

(a) Advantages of nuclear energy: Considering in the past 45 years there has been ONE nuclear plant built in the United States, the unspoken **DISADVANTAGES** of nuclear energy have clearly demonstrated weight.

(b) Feasibility of constructing nuclear power plants in Oregon: A moot point given our state's nuclear moratorium.

(c) How the use of nuclear energy may support current energy systems: I'm sure the extensive academic literature has sufficiently explored this point.

(d) Economic growth and workforce development potential for Oregon communities: Again, a moot point given our state's nuclear moratorium. There are assuredly a plethora of other ways to generate economic growth and workforce development in Oregon.

(e) Safety of nuclear energy and nuclear waste disposal: The 1980 moratorium explicitly mentions the lack of a national nuclear waste site as a blocker to nuclear construction in this state. 45 years later. Such a site still does not exist. The science behind radioactivity has not magically changed in the intervening time, nor have any safety concerns been alleviated. What radical new ground would this study hope to uncover that academic literature hasn't?

(f) Reliability of nuclear energy: Again, considering just ONE nuclear plant has been build in the United States in 45 years, clearly there are many factors discouraging the construction of a nuclear plant anywhere in the country, let alone Oregon. "Reliability" is just one factor of many.

(g) How the use of locally produced nuclear energy can eliminate dependence on foreign-sourced energy: For a 3rd time, this is a MOOT POINT considering nuclear construction is currently banned in Oregon. (If you need further elaboration, I can direct the Committee to data that shows that over 98% of uranium mined worldwide is mined abroad... and that over a third of uranium is enriched in Russia.)

(h) Use of thorium as an option for producing nuclear energy: At risk of sounding like a broken record... this is a MOOT POINT, as Oregon currently cannot legally produce ANY nuclear energy, from thorium or anything else.

There it is – these points are either well-covered by existing research, marketing conditions, or irrelevant as long as our state bans nuclear construction. What good could this bill possibly do for our taxpayer dollars?

I strongly urge the committee to **OPPOSE HB2038**. Thank you for your attention.