

To: The Honorable Members of the Oregon House Committee on Energy and Environment

Date: Feb. 26, 2025

RE: HB 2410

As an Oregon citizen, I'd like to register my opposition to HB 2410, which proposes to allow a siting certificate to be issued for a "small" nuclear demonstration project in Umatilla County.

- Oregon citizens were right to enact moratorium in 1980 on the construction of nuclear power plants in the state. It seems to me this siting certificate would illegally contravene that moratorium.
- Nuclear power is not a solution to climate change – it is not clean, carbon-free, or sustainable. Nor is it safe: the health of communities near reactors, as well as those downwind and downstream are placed at risk.
- Building such a plant would be costly and require significant public subsidies and government loan guarantees – monies that can and should be spent on more useful projects, such as improving our aging energy grid without reliance on dangerous technology that Oregon has already rejected, based on bitter experience.
- It should be noted that some of the proponents of measures like this – not just the nuclear power industry, but technology advocates eager to expand data processing centers and AI – stand to benefit enormously from plants like this, while local citizens and communities will have to deal with the cost-burden and health and economic fallout.
- The bill requires that any nuclear waste generated be removed from the site if and when the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's operating license for the "demonstration project" is terminated but does not indicate what should happen to the waste if the "demonstration project" is converted to a fully operational power plant. Nor does the bill specify the length of time the "demonstration project" would run or produce hazardous waste. Note that there is no safe way to dispose of nuclear waste.
- The bill does not specify what the criteria will be to determine whether or not the "demonstration project" is successful. It appears to be assumed that it will be, and will transition to becoming a fully-operational power plant.
- This is a naked attempt to force Oregon to accept nuclear power by siting a harmless-sounding "demonstration project" in a job-starved county with few voters to oppose it.

I respectfully ask that you do not approve this bill going forward.

Benjamin Chambers