

Submitter: Mark Shapiro
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2410

My name is Mark Shapiro. I am the co-director and producer of the 2023 Oscar-eligible documentary feature DOWNWIND as well as the new documentary short The Invisible Enemy.

Both films highlight the importance of knowledge and understanding as it relates to the dangers of radioactive toxicity on predominantly unsuspecting communities, including their water supplies and food resources.

Along with my co-director Douglas Brian Miller, I have done significant research and have studied the impact of nuclear weapons testing and nuclear power plants and I am convinced the inherent dangers far outweigh the benefits of the technologies. Furthermore I want to speak in support of generally marginalized populations who are by far the most susceptible communities and are often told that “there is no danger” when human or computer malfunction cause an accident. That official quote came from the US government after an errant atomic weapons test in Utah. It was repeated after other accidents in government memos and reports that we cited in our film DOWNWIND. In addition to the human error element that sometimes plagued full-scale nuclear weapons detonations, we use a factual visual montage of worldwide nuclear power plant “accidents” from all continents. We all live downwind.

As a filmmaker, I have met countless interviewees who were unsuspecting victims and are now enduring grave illnesses from generational, DNA-altering diseases including cancers, leukemia and other ailments known to be plausible from exposure to radiation; whether that was from direct fallout or proximity to transport or storage of the hazardous materials, they are suffering, and, in many cases, their children and grandchildren are now fighting for their lives.

I am firmly opposed to the construction or implementation of any nuclear reactor no matter how it is described, from micro to small modular. The health and environmental risks will never convince me otherwise.

Mark Shapiro