

Submitter: John Raymonda
On Behalf Of: The people of Oregon that would be exposed to the
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and
Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2410

I am writing to express my opposition to HB 2410, which would enable the siting of a demonstration "Small Modular Nuclear Reactor" in Umatilla County. I am a retired PhD Physical Chemist with additional training in Physics, as well. Thus, I am well aware of the problem that the nuclear waste from such a reactor will present. In spite of decades of intensive research and testing by the Federal nuclear agencies, assisted by several well reputed universities, NO method for disposing of nuclear waste that is both safe and permanent has been discovered or invented. The accumulated nuclear waste from nearly 80 years of nuclear research and power generation is still with us and will continue to be with us, and be dangerous, for thousands of years. It seems highly imprudent to increase the amount of this waste in support of a speculative test program before a method of cleanup has been developed and proved. The fact that the waste from a Small Modular Reactor will be quite small compared with what is already being produced by the many full-scale reactors currently in operation is, in my view, not a sufficient rationale for producing more, even in small amounts.

Furthermore, nuclear power is NOT climate friendly as is often claimed. It produces waste heat which ends up in rivers, the ocean or the atmosphere. Neither solar power nor wind power produce any appreciable waste heat (save the miniscule amount of frictional heat produced in the bearings of the wind turbines).

I urge you not to start this proposed test program.