Submitter:	Andy Harris
On Behalf Of:	Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility
Committee:	House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	HB2410

Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Gamba, Vice-Chair Levy, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr Andy Harris. I am speaking for Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility in opposition to HB 2410.

The citizens of Umatilla Co should be advised of the risks of nuclear power.

Nuclear energy is extraordinarily expensive and depends on government (taxpayer) funding to extract and mill uranium, to subsidize construction costs, to clean up radioactive waste, and to indemnify reactors against radioactive leaks and meltdowns.

Nuclear power is notorious for cost overruns and years of delays. The typical time frame for planning and construction of a nuclear plant is 10-15 years.

Small Modular Nuclear Reactors (SMRs) are experimental, an unproven entity since none have been built in the U.S.

Despite the myth that SMRs can fit into your living room, the reactors are hardly small, typically measuring 76 ft in height and 15 ft in diameter.

A permanent repository for radioactive waste didn't exist when Measure 7 passed in 1980, and it still doesn't exist today.

Nuclear power technology may be an important step in the development of nuclear weapons. X-energy's proposed SMR uses HALEU (High-Assay Low-Enriched Uranium) reactor fuel that is more highly enriched than current light water reactors. This is a potential risk if X-energy reactor fuel falls into the hands of terrorists or rogue states intent on building nuclear weapons.

Climate disruption cannot wait 10-15 years for the development and construction of new nuclear reactors. Time is running out on our climate.

Green energy, especially solar and wind, are growing rapidly, accounting for 19% of electricity in Oregon (2023 figures). Wind and solar power can ramp up far more quickly and economically than nuclear power. Major improvements in battery storage are occurring and will continue to be a key factor in realizing our future energy needs.

Let us not make the mistake of thinking that nuclear reactors are a panacea for our energy needs. They are not, and they come with high risks.

Andy Harris, MD