

# **VOTE YES on House Bill 2410**

## **Allows Consideration of Nuclear in Oregon's Clean Energy Future**

**HB 2410 narrowly exempts a small modular reactor ("SMR") demonstration project in Umatilla County from Oregon's outdated prohibitions on nuclear energy facility siting.**

Nuclear currently provides almost half of domestic carbon-free electricity in the United States, including 19 trillion Btu of electricity imported into Oregon annually.<sup>i</sup> With lower land-use requirements and lower transmission requirements than distributed or site-constrained generation sources, nuclear offers high-paying jobs and other regional economic benefits.<sup>ii</sup> Small modular reactors, in particular, are a form of advanced nuclear that provides a simple design, enhanced safety features, and the economics and quality afforded by factory production compared to traditional, large nuclear power plants.

Electricity demand in the Northwest is expected to grow more than 30% in the next decade.<sup>iii</sup> To identify how Oregon will meet this demand and our state's ambitious clean energy goals, all carbon-free energy technologies must be on the table. Existing system-level modeling shows that including nuclear as a clean, firm complement to variable renewables and storage reduces system costs.<sup>iv</sup> Advanced nuclear solutions like SMRs could therefore serve an essential role in Oregon's clean energy future, but outdated statutes adopted in 1980 are standing as a barrier to considering any form of Oregon-based advanced nuclear.<sup>v</sup>

Without immediate, incremental policy change, Oregon will miss the opportunity to consider advanced nuclear as a part of our domestic clean energy generation mix.

### **Umatilla County is Ready to Explore a Small Modular Reactor Demonstration Project**

Umatilla County is experiencing significant load growth in the irrigation, commercial and industrial sectors, and county leaders are committed to exploring options to support economic development with reliable, resilient carbon-free energy. HB 2410 enables a starting point for a conversation, sending the necessary market and regulatory signals to consider EFSC siting of an SMR demonstration project to meet the County's unique energy needs. As a legislative referral to Umatilla County, HB 2410 centers community consent as a core Oregon value for clean energy development.

**We support HB 2410 as a narrowly-crafted proposal for considering the value proposition of advanced nuclear in Oregon, and urge legislators to vote YES.**



<sup>i</sup>U.S. Department of Energy, Pathways to Commercial Liftoff: Advanced Nuclear, September 2024, at 21, [https://liftoff.energy.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/LIFTOFF\\_DOE\\_AdvNuclear-vX6.pdf](https://liftoff.energy.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/LIFTOFF_DOE_AdvNuclear-vX6.pdf); Oregon Department of Energy 2024 Biennial Energy Report, November 2024 at 2, <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/Data-and-Reports/Documents/2024-Biennial-Energy-Report.pdf>.

<sup>ii</sup> Pathways to Commercial Liftoff at 1.

<sup>iii</sup> Pacific Northwest Utilities Conference Committee, Northwest Regional Forecast of Power Loads and Resources: August 2024 through July 2034, May 2024, at 4, <https://www.pnucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-PNUCC-Northwest-Regional-Forecast-final.pdf>

<sup>iv</sup> Pathways to Commercial Liftoff at 10.

<sup>v</sup> See Oregon Department of Energy, Oregon Energy Strategy Modeling Results Info Meeting Notes, January 31, 2025, at 6, <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/Data-and-Reports/Documents/2025-01-31-OES-Modeling-Session-Notes.pdf> (confirming that the initial modelling results for the Oregon Energy Strategy “did not permit nuclear siting in Oregon”).

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