



**OREGON
WILD**

Let Nature Live. Let Nature Last.

To: House Committee on Climate,
Energy and the Environment

From: Oregon Wild

Re: Oppose HB 2410

Date: February 27, 2025

Standing in solidarity with Oregon's voters of the past, our children, Tribes of today, and rural communities of Oregon, **Oregon Wild opposes HB 2410**. After much consideration, we have determined that siting nuclear reactors in Umatilla County conflicts with Oregon Wild's fifty-year mission to protect Oregon's wildlife, wild lands, and water for future generations.

In 1980, Oregon voters passed a state moratorium on issuing site certificates for new commercial nuclear power reactors until the U.S. designates a national nuclear waste repository and there is another vote of the people of Oregon to allow it. While legislators advocating for this bill claim that nuclear reactor technology safety has improved, the clear fact remains that a national nuclear waste repository is not on the horizon. Radioactive waste remains a threat to wildlife, wild lands, and water across the nation. Oregon voters deserve better than HB 2410.

In Oregon and specifically in Umatilla County, rural residents are already heavily impacted by air *and* water pollution. Adding an additional source of pollution, especially a single source polluter during construction and operation, is deeply problematic. Notwithstanding any other pollution sources, the harm from a catastrophic event at a nuclear reactor in Umatilla County would decimate industries that are so significant that together they represent 42% of Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions.

Timelines for electricity from nuclear energy production in Oregon are not in this generation. As your legislator colleagues stated clearly, holes, houses, and gravel quarries are taking ten years to permit (let alone to construct). Permitting, planning, and approval for more than one (because this is not just about one site and one reactor) is well beyond the timeline of Greenland's and Antarctica's ice sheets melting.

Oregon Wild supports the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation which opposes siting nuclear reactors in Umatilla County, the traditional homelands of CTUIR members. We believe that it is very important for Oregon's legislators to listen to tribal members and honor the sovereignty of Tribal Nations in Oregon. **Respect their position and reject this proposal.**

Respectfully,
Casey Kulla
state forest policy coordinator
Oregon Wild