

Submitter: Bonnie McKinlay  
On Behalf Of: self  
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2410

Thank you Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Levy and Gamba and all Members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment.

I write in opposition to HB 2410.

Preserve the law that Oregonians voted for 45 years ago. The law was adopted for the entire state. The Legislature should not make piecemeal, county by county changes to this statewide Oregon Law. The law was made to ensure the health and safety of all Oregonians, to protect them from the serious risks associated with nuclear energy. While still in effect for the other 35 Oregon counties, Umatilla County could be isolated from the original law under the passage of HB 2410.

In the event of a nuclear accident, Umatilla County's neighboring counties of Morrow, Grant, Wallowa and Union could be seriously impacted, yet voters in those counties would have been denied the vote that HB 2410 grants exclusively to the Umatilla County electorate. A potential nuclear disaster cannot be confined inside the Umatilla County Line.

All of this points to the easing of the protections of the 1980 law. The problem with HB 2410 reaches way beyond county lines, it reaches far, far beyond human fathomability. No one alive today can imagine the condition of our planet thousands of years forward. Likewise, no one can ensure nuclear safety for future populations. The forever risks are obvious; the harmful radioactivity from nuclear waste persists for thousands of years. We are in a world of climatic, geographic, physical and political changes. Is it reasonable to weaken an established Oregon law—a law that is a national model for nuclear safety and security? It is not wise and it is not moral. Preserve the law, oppose HB 2410.