



**OREGON
WILD**

Let Nature Live. Let Nature Last.

To: House Committee on Climate,
Energy and the Environment

From: Oregon Wild

Re: Oppose HB 2038

Date: February 27, 2025

Oregon Wild opposes HB 3038 because a directive from the Oregon Legislature to the Oregon Department of Energy to study only the *benefits* of nuclear energy in Oregon is deeply flawed. In fact, since I believe the word “absurd” was used to describe any such study (and yet created some consternation on the dais), I would second that, because it *is* absurd to direct ODOE to study the benefits of something that our state currently has a moratorium on.

As a reminder, 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. In other words, there are two triggers: the existence of a national nuclear waste repository and a vote of Oregonians to allow it.

A one-sided study is bound to be met with opposition when it is released. That renders it unhelpful in conversations about how to and whether to power data centers and other heavy electricity users in Oregon.

Legislators respectfully asked if the proposed study bill could be amended to include studying the risks, impacts, damages, and harms of nuclear energy in Oregon. If HB 3038 is amended, it needs to also require comprehensive government to government consultation with Tribal Nations in Oregon as well as studying the harm to local communities that are already disproportionately harmed by industrial air and water pollution.

Oregon Wild remains opposed, because the proposed study is unnecessary and wasteful.

Respectfully,

Casey Kulla
state forest policy coordinator
Oregon Wild