

Submitter: Sarah Chaney
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2410

To: House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment
From: Sarah Chaney
Re: Testimony Opposing HB2410
Date: February 27, 2025

Chair Lively, Vice Chair Gamba, Vice Chair Levy, and Members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment:

I write today in opposition to HB2410, that promotes moving forward with Small Modular Nuclear Reactors (SMNR). Oregon voted against any future nuclear power plants in Oregon unless the people of Oregon vote for nuclear power and unless a high level nuclear waste repository has been built and is federally licensed and operating, which to date, has not occurred. A site certificate for a SMNR in Umatilla county with approval of only Umatilla county voters in 2028 is against the law. In addition, spending tax payer money on preparing reports, statutes, and rules in order to provide oversight of a nuclear demonstration project that would not be approved until 2028 - if at all - is a waste of our money.

I have another objection to this bill after hearing from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reserve this morning. Making these people deal with the burden of having more nuclear waste, in addition to the toxic Hanford site, on or near their tribal lands is unconscionable.

In today's meeting I heard the message from proponents that nuclear power is safe now and that people have unfounded fears. This is not true. There are many reasons for fears:

- There is still no designated safe repository.
- Current practice is to store nuclear waste on site, which is high risk
- Oregon is overdue for a massive earthquake
- For those who live in Umatilla county, there is always the risk of a disaster of some kind
 - There's always the chance of a spill or accident if waste is being moved to a different location, either on or off property
 - Having nuclear waste stored on site can be a target for terrorist activity
 - The need for a great deal of water and the threat of increasing the temperature of the Columbia and other bodies of water is a very real fear

- If Amazon or any other private entity pays for and owns a SMNR, how likely is it that they will manage a facility safely?

Please don't even consider allowing nuclear reactors in Oregon until there is a safe manner and location to deal with the highly radioactive waste that will be generated.

Thank you,
Sarah