



Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Levy, and members of the committee, for the record my name is Lorne Bulling, and I am here on behalf of the Ironworkers Local 29. Local 29 represents more than 1,600 skilled journeymen and registered apprentices across Oregon and Southwest Washington. Our trade provides family sustaining wages with full family healthcare, and the ability to retire with dignity.

For the Ironworkers across the United States and Canada, clean energy is our biggest employer by hours worked. The US DOE stated in their 2024 Advanced Nuclear report that Nuclear does not “displace” or “compete with” renewables; decarbonization will require both new nuclear and renewable capacity. Including nuclear and other clean firm resources reduces the cost of decarbonization by reducing the need for additional variable generation capacity, energy storage, and transmission. Nuclear has an essential role in the energy transition as a clean firm complement to renewables.

Nuclear power expansion also creates massive opportunities for more jobs in renewable energy in construction, maintenance, and operation. A 2022 study commissioned by the US DOE found that nuclear is one of the few power generation methods that can keep the volume of high-paying jobs that retired coal plants like the Boardman Coal Plant provided to communities. A just transition needs to preserve the viability of the communities across Oregon that are most impacted by the shift to clean energy generation. This is done through high quality union jobs, and nuclear could be a compliment here as it is one of the most unionized sectors in the country averaging 19% representation from the 2023 US Energy & Employment Report.

HB 2410 does not guarantee a project will be sited but does give us the opportunity to start a conversation about how we ensure we can get to the 100% clean standards that were created by HB 2021. And if HB 2410 does pass the legislature, the residents of Umatilla County will still have the final say on the ballot. If we do have the opportunity to build a pilot program, we have the skilled trades workforce to get this done on time, on budget, and most importantly—safely. The Ironworkers Local 29 urge a yes vote on HB 2410.