

If I had had a chance to speak, the following would be my testimony./’

“Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Levy and members of the committee, my name is Bob Sack. I live in Oak Grove just south of Milwaukie. I come before you as a private citizen who has done his best to learn about nuclear energy. I am in enthusiastic support of HB 2410.”

This measure would allow Umatilla County residents to approve the building a small modular reactor (SMR) on their land. As a demonstration project, the scale proposed by the measure is relatively modest (as nuclear energy projects go) but will provide critical experience and knowledge about the advantages, and perhaps some of the drawbacks, of SMR’s.

Around the country, nuclear is moving to the forefront of consideration for carbon free energy. Data centers of the kind being built around Umatilla require continuous uninterrupted power. Nuclear is an ideal energy source as it can generate electricity 24/7/365. If Umatilla County cannot provide that kind of electricity, data companies will go elsewhere with their high paying jobs and tax revenue,

OSU led the way, but there are now over 30 companies around the world developing variations on the SMR design. The US Navy has been powering submarine and aircraft carriers with, what are essentially SMR’s, for 65 years without any problems.

I would like to make just a few other points that I consider important about nuclear safety, cost, and waste that may not have been

covered yet. Meltdown has been made impossible with current SMR design. Wind and solar facilities are cheaper to build but need to be replaced every 20 – 25 years while a nuclear plant keeps chugging away for 60 to 80 years. The waste produced by all 100 reactors in the US since they started operating would fit into a large Walmart Store. This year Finland finished construction of a geophysical waste repository showing that it can be done.

I believe nuclear must be part of the energy mix if we are going to have any chance of limiting global warming.

I urge you to support HB 2410, and I am happy to answer any questions.”