



The Oregon Conservancy Foundation

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Before the House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment

Testimony of Cathryn Chudy Oregon Conservancy Foundation February 27, 2025

Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Gamba and Levy, members of the Committee, and the public, my name is Cathryn Chudy and I am a Board Member of the Oregon Conservancy Foundation (OCF). I am testifying in opposition to HB 2410.

HB 2410 is one of 13 bills currently proposed as an all out campaign to get rid of Oregon's 45 year old ballot measure law that holds two key guard rails keeping Oregon residents safe from the harms, risks and continuously escalating expense of the nuclear power agenda.

Industry lobbying and government promotion work hard to capture the public and many of our elected representatives, who are served a relentless menu of deceptive promises, repeatedly offered as facts, under the premise that nuclear energy is the answer to our climate crisis and now necessary to feed our data needs. Small Modular Nuclear Reactors answer neither, and this pursuit ultimately will cost ratepayers as well as rob us of time to activate real, available solutions that we need to employ now.

Consider this [note of caution](#) from Matthew McKinzie, senior director of data and policy at the Science Office of the nonprofit Natural Resources Defense Council: "The most important thing to know about SMRs is that they don't exist in a commercially viable way," he said. "There is no real-world data on the performance of SMRs, as none have been manufactured at scale."

"SMRs are at an economic disadvantage due to their lower power output compared with traditional reactors," McKinzie said.

"For SMRs to play any role in the future, the technology must address concerns around cost, environmental radiation, nuclear waste and nuclear weapons proliferation," he

said. "Absent meeting these challenges, the technology is unlikely to succeed."

Proponents of these hypothetical proposed reactors tell you what they know you want to hear -that this technology is clean, safe, cost-effective and ready to go. None of those things are true. You owe it to yourselves and your constituents to dig much deeper than the rosy picture that is being painted for you. Widen the scope of your inputs past our captured government and industry promoters.

Please take the time to listen to Dr. Gordon Edwards, physicist, nuclear consultant and president and co-founder of the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility. "With decades of research and advocacy, Dr. Edwards has been at the forefront of educating citizens and lawmakers on the actual risks and realities of nuclear power, nuclear waste, and the long-term consequences of storing radioactive materials."

"Dr. Edwards left high school in the 1950s thinking nuclear power was wonderful, but then completely changed his mind by the time he graduated from university. Since then he has been Canada's most vocal advocate for greater transparency and full public debate about the merits and demerits of nuclear power."

Here is a recent interview with Dr. Edwards about those issues, which are relevant given that ***HB 2410 intends to open the door to small modular nuclear reactors being brought in to Oregon with the unsolved reality of high-level, radioactive spent nuclear fuel being stored on site with still no permanent place to go.*** It will take at least a decade or more of expense and delay for Umatilla to maybe (or maybe not) get one of these unproven designs to finally operate.

The Dr. Edwards interview:

<https://wyliberty.org/blog/eye-on-the-issues/nuclear-risks-a-conversation-with-dr-gordon-edwards-episode-90>