



The Oregon Conservancy Foundation

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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 2038.

This is a tough session for our legislators who are operating under the stressful reality of a significant budget shortfall, with many competing priorities seeking to be funded.

It doesn't make sense to elevate into this year's tight budget this proposed study, which as written is a thinly disguised attempt to have the Oregon Department of Energy provide legislators with a rosy picture of nuclear energy in order to reinforce the contention that proponents can somehow get at least one step closer to overturning the will of the people as expressed 45 years ago. At that time the people of Oregon determined with an overwhelming majority vote that there must be a permanent, federal, high level radioactive spent fuel repository operating and that the entire state should have a vote on siting nuclear power plants in Oregon.

There are some decisions that merit a second or a third look, but this is not one of them. The conditions set by Oregonians back then have stood the test of time and are as valid today as they were in 1980, when the people determined that protecting their health and safety, and that of their children and grandchildren and next generations, depended on a simple insistence on safe, permanent storage of the toxic radioactive waste generated by nuclear power plants.

Please don't allow proponents to persuade you that the people's concern about exposure to the risks of operating nuclear power plants (which do emit radiation in their routine operations) and their determination to prevent generating more of the toxic waste that even now has no place to go except remaining at the site of the nuclear

power plant, can be easily set aside. The hosting community faces long term risks into the future, until a viable repository is assured, and no “study” that selectively suggests that this can be overcome by risky transport to interim locations in communities whose consent is based on monetary incentives, with the rosy picture deliberately shading out the bleak reality that decades of time and billions of dollars have not yet made high level nuclear waste storage a sure thing that we the people can count on.

Please be practical stewards of taxpayer dollars and the public interest and say NO to yet another “study” when there are many to be found and digested without spending more public funds pursuing another one with a preordained slant that so obviously seeks to invalidate and discard what the voters in 1980 so wisely decided.