

Rhys Davis  
Oregon State University  
Nuclear Science and Engineering

Written Testimony Before the House Climate Energy and Environment Committee  
House Bill 2410  
2/28/2025

**Chair Lively, Vice chair Gamba and Vice chair Levy and Members of the House Climate, Energy and Environment Committee.**

For the record, my name is Rhys Davis, and I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2410. I am a First-Year student in Nuclear Science and Engineering at Oregon State University.

I am here today to encourage support for HB 2410 that provides a narrow exemption from Oregon's restrictions on nuclear energy, specifically, to allow for a small modular reactor (SMR) demonstration project to be sited in Umatilla County.

This is because, growing up in the town of West Linn, I always knew Oregon to be a pioneer in the production and use of electricity. Almost everyday, I would pass by the site of the nation's very first long-distance power transmission, the Willamette Falls Hydroelectric Project, which carried electricity from West Linn all the way to Portland in 1889. This historic edifice, which is still in use today, was a constant reminder of the revolutionary power of electricity. In just a little more than a century, it has extended our human labor power to heights that were once unimaginable, and has enriched our society with new technological forms that were once incomprehensible. It was always a source of inspiration to me that such a major milestone in the American history of electricity production was found in my own hometown.

Today, Oregon has another chance to make a historic achievement in the history of electricity production: the construction of a small modular reactor in Umatilla County. The SMR is a new form of nuclear power production that is more flexible, less expensive to construct, and safer than any other implemented in the past. Accordingly, it will be an indispensable part of the future of energy production. In becoming one of the first places in the world to implement an SMR, Umatilla County has the invaluable chance to pave the way for further research and development into this technology, and by extension, become a pioneer towards a new, sustainable, and greenhouse-gas free system of power production. Furthermore, in developing an SMR, Oregon could become a center of innovation for nuclear power, allowing for an immense inflow of talent, research funding, and interest from industry. The potential for economic growth cannot be understated.

Accordingly, I urge the committee to support HB 2410 to center Oregon in the future of clean energy . Thank you for your time and consideration.