

Good morning, Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Gamba, Vice-Chair Levy and committee members. My name is Dan Dorran. I am a County Commissioner for Umatilla County, and want to thank you for the opportunity to testify today in strong support of HB2410.

The McNary Dam came on line in 1954 with the ability to produce 1000 MW of power. I was born a year later, and grew up 6 miles from the dam. Its history and importance were taught at several levels of my education in the Hermiston School District, but out of all the tours, facts and figures that I learned about the dam's specifications and benefits, here's the one that stuck with me the most: Less than 1% of that power stayed in Umatilla County. Over the years that percentage has changed with improved irrigation and agriculture production, food processing, manufacturing, freight consolidation/distribution, technology and general population growth, but it has not changed drastically.

Umatilla County has been progressive in its economic development history, along with innovations in the energy generation required to compliment these developments. In the energy sector, Umatilla County was home of one of the first natural gas co-generation facilities and continues to have two operating and providing over 1100MW of power, while at the same time creating steam utility for the efficiency of food processing plants. This technology is now common throughout the U.S. Although this is now aged technology, the ability of the people of Umatilla County to embrace advanced energy generation is a way of life.

With that backdrop, Umatilla County was also a very early proving ground for commercial wind turbines in Oregon and continues advancements with permitted solar and battery storage projects. As we have been the test center in Oregon for an "all of the above strategy," we still export over 73% of the power produced in Umatilla County. However, we now are becoming an importer at the same time.

What hasn't slowed down is the need for additional power in Umatilla County, as is true across much of Oregon. In our county that need is driven by advancements in energy-intensive economic development such as robotic freight distribution centers, food processing, data centers, transportation, industrial uses and others. All of which brings me to HB2410.

In 2022, Umatilla County took inventory of potential developments and their associated utility needs. As we sat down with utilities, what became clear, was that for Umatilla County to continue as a viable option for economic development in the years moving forward, we needed to start addressing some major needs, including electricity. As we began the process of analyzing where the electricity would come from to drive progress, the reality was that new transmission was taking upward of 20 years to get cited,

distribution was nearly the same and renewable generation was taking 10-15 plus years with land owner and neighbor acceptance beginning to diminish. We continue to champion all of these projects, but the development is not meeting the need.

That journey led us to SMR technology. Umatilla County has been engaging in research, knowledge building and outreach for the last 2 ½ years about SMRs, with conversations ranging from requirements to siting. We have had discussions with everyone from our next-door neighbors to federal regulators and a lot of steps in between. We ultimately determined that this needed to become a serious conversation at the state level to be able to even consider the inclusion of SMRs in our state's clean energy generation mix, and that is why we are before you today.

I cannot thank this body enough for the opportunity to bring this bill forward, to begin a high-quality discussion that we hope will drive the inclusion of SMR technology in this state's efforts to ensure that Oregon can meet its clean energy goals while driving economic development and ensuring reliability and resilience for our communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.