

Submitter: Rachel DiNitto

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2038

I am writing as a resident of Oregon to respectfully request that you do not approve HB 2038 which seeks to eventually overturn the will of Oregon citizens since the 1980 measure to keep new nuclear out of Oregon unless there is a statewide referendum and a federally licensed nuclear waste repository capable of permanent disposal of high-level radioactive waste. There is no need to study nuclear energy. We have decades of data that shows the nuclear power is dangerous and deadly. As someone who works on nuclear issues in the US and Japan, I have seen the results of nuclear power accidents. Fukushima residents are still struggling with the deadly harm from that accident and regions of that area will never again be habitable. The nuclear industry tells us that the small modular reactors are safe, but they are untested and will likely result in even more waste. The rush for SMRs is linked to the fallacy that nuclear is carbon neutral and will solve climate change. This is not the case. Nuclear power plants regularly run behind schedule and well over cost. They cannot be built in time to solve global warming. There is still no solution to the radioactive waste that will last hundreds of thousands of years. Oregon has suffered enough from the radioactive releases from Hanford and will suffer more when the underground radioactive plumes reach the Columbia river. Nuclear power plants also increase the risk of nuclear proliferation and potential terrorist attacks. Please grant the anti-nuclear side the opportunity of presenting invited testimony opposing nuclear power as you have twice done for the pro-nuclear side. I hope you will do everything in your power to keep nuclear out of Oregon. Keep our state and residents safe from this deadly technology. Do not burden future generations with toxic nuclear waste. Without a solution for this waste, it is unethical to allow any further nuclear construction.