

February 28, 2025

Committee: House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment

Relating to a small modular reactor energy facility demonstration project; prescribing an effective date; providing that this Act shall be referred to the people for their approval or rejection. Allows the Energy Facility Siting Council to issue a site certificate for a small modular reactor energy facility demonstration project in Umatilla County.

Opposition to HB 2410

I, James R. (JR) Wilkinson, submit these comments in opposition to HB 2410 and request their inclusion in the official record.

My introduction to “things nuclear” was as cofounder of Spokane’s Hanford Education Action League (HEAL). In the mid-1980’s our organization was instrumental in revealing what forty-years of weapons production and waste disposal had left in its wake at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation.

Thankfully Hanford’s mission is now clean-up, but its legacy wastes continue to confound safe, long-term storage and management. I bring Hanford’s nuclear waste legacy to your attention because we must not forget.

The proponents of modular reactors tout it as “green energy.” However, I suspect modular reactors also produce toxic, radioactive waste streams (e.g. cooling liquids, core materials, and reactor rods, etc.). And these waste streams will require “disposal” at some point, to some place, at some cost, to some people. The project materials I reviewed were vague on solutions for long-term disposal of waste. Whether nuclear waste comes from a full-sized or modular reactor, a stream will last considerably longer than our collective attention span or pocketbook.

While I express my opposition here based on management of waste streams, or lack thereof, I have many remaining questions. Do not support HB 2410, or anything remotely similar.

Thank you for your consideration,

jrw

James R. (JR) Wilkinson