



To: House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment
Re: HB 2038
27 February 2025

Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Gamba, Vice-Chair Levy, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. My name is Regna Merritt, and I live in Portland. I'm a retired Physician Assistant and serve as an Interim Executive Director of Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility.

Oregon PSR was founded in 1981 by health professionals concerned about the threat of nuclear war. We've always worked to "Prevent what we cannot cure." In 1985 we shared in the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to our international affiliate, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War. Our mission has since expanded and includes work on climate change and environmental justice. Through public health education and advocacy, we seek a healthy, just, and peaceful world for present and future generations. We are supported by over 2,400 individuals.

We support the 1980 Ballot Measure and reject efforts to undercut the protections it provides to all Oregonians.

We urge you to oppose HB 2038. This bill directs the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) to study the advantages of nuclear power while failing to direct the agency to study the disadvantages. We object to the bias reflected in the bill language and do not want the ODOE to squander precious time and resources to promote or defend nuclear power, when we have substantial evidence of the negative health and safety risks

associated with the nuclear energy industry - as well as the outrageous financial burdens it has placed on Oregonians and others.

Where there is fission, there is radioactive waste.

The extraordinary costs and risks associated with nuclear energy in Oregon, at the Columbia Generating Station, at Hanford, at Three Mile Island, at Chernobyl, at Fukushima, and most recently at Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant have been well documented. **If there is extra money available to ODOE, we recommend that it support development of safe, renewable infrastructure that can't melt down and won't leave behind a deadly radioactive mess.**

We strongly urge you to oppose HB 2038.

Thank you!