

Submitter: Benjamin Roche

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2038

Testimony in Support of Oregon House Bill HB2038:
Advocating for Comprehensive Nuclear Energy Research and Public Transparency

Dear Members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill HB2038, which mandates the Oregon Department of Energy to conduct an in-depth study on nuclear energy, including aspects of nuclear waste disposal. This initiative is both timely and essential as Oregon seeks sustainable and reliable energy solutions to meet its growing demands.

The Imperative for Nuclear Energy Research in Oregon

As we transition towards a low-carbon future, it is crucial to explore all viable energy sources. Nuclear energy presents several compelling advantages:

Clean and Reliable Power:

> Nuclear power plants produce large amounts of electricity with minimal greenhouse gas emissions, contributing significantly to climate change mitigation efforts.

> Energy Independence: Developing nuclear energy capabilities can reduce reliance on external energy sources, enhancing state and national energy security.

> Economic Benefits: Investment in nuclear technology can stimulate economic growth through job creation in plant construction, operation, and maintenance.

The Need for a Transparent Public Study

Public perception of nuclear energy is often influenced by concerns about safety and waste management. To address these concerns:

Comprehensive Analysis: HB2038 proposes a thorough examination of nuclear energy, encompassing technological advancements, safety protocols, and effective waste disposal methods.

Public Engagement: Transparency in the study process will foster public trust and facilitate informed discussions about the role of nuclear energy in Oregon's energy portfolio.

Policy Development: The findings from this study will equip policymakers with the necessary information to make decisions that balance environmental, economic, and social considerations.

Supporting HB2038 is a proactive step towards diversifying Oregon's energy resources while addressing environmental and economic objectives. I urge the committee to approve this bill, paving the way for informed decision-making and a sustainable energy future for Oregon.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Ben Roche
Albany, OR