

Submitter: Benjamin Roche  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2410

Testimony in Support of Oregon House Bill HB 2410

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 2410, which would allow the Energy Facility Siting Council to approve a Small Modular Reactor (SMR) demonstration project in Umatilla County. This bill represents an important step in advancing clean, reliable, and efficient energy solutions in Oregon, while also ensuring that the people of Umatilla County have the opportunity to vote on this important issue.

Why Oregon Needs HB 2410

Oregon State University has been at the forefront of nuclear energy research, and SMRs offer a revolutionary approach to power generation that is safe, scalable, and environmentally friendly. However, without the ability to test and develop this technology here in Oregon, we risk falling behind other states and nations that are moving forward with nuclear advancements. This bill allows Oregon to take control of its energy future by supporting local innovation and ensuring that homegrown technology can be tested and implemented within the state.

The Benefits of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)

Reliable & Carbon-Free Energy – SMRs provide a constant, clean energy source that can complement renewables like wind and solar.

Energy Resilience – The proposed microgrid capabilities will allow the demonstration project to operate independently of the grid in case of emergencies, enhancing community energy security.

Local Economic Growth – Approving this project would create high-paying jobs, attract investment, and position Oregon as a leader in advanced nuclear technology.

Ensuring Transparency & Public Involvement

HB 2410 ensures that this decision is brought directly to the people of Umatilla County for a vote, demonstrating a commitment to public engagement and transparency. This is an opportunity for Oregonians to lead the way in energy innovation while ensuring that local communities have a voice in the process. For too long, Oregon has limited its energy options, and now we are facing increased electricity demand without adequate base-load power. This bill is a critical step toward securing our energy future while embracing cutting-edge technology developed right here in Oregon. I urge you to support HB 2410 and allow this vital

research and development to move forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ben Roche  
Albany, OR