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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB635

Since some have declared that there is an electricity emergency, I think it would make sense to keep a cool head and make a rational decision on something as dire as nuclear energy. Making an uninformed decision about nuclear energy has generational and species-threatening implications that deserve careful study from multiple perspectives -- not just from organizations and individuals who would personally gain from employment or profit.

My son and I were in Japan when the Fukushima reactors melted down. This made a big impression on me and the following 5 years I dedicated myself to learning about nuclear energy. I wrote a paper when I was at Portland State University about the effects of low levels of ionizing radiation on human physiology and was subsequently invited by the Head of Pediatrics at OHSU to join the Board of Physicians for Social Responsibility. I studied the systematic failure of the nuclear industry to be held accountable for nuclear accidents all over the world. I interviewed doctors who were threatened by their government if they spoke out about the radiation damage they were seeing in their patients. I also interviewed former nuclear plant operators, world science experts in New York City, and studied these matters intensely from all angles.

For decades, nuclear proponents have adopted a strategy that ignores the expense, the risks and systematic failures of nuclear energy. They grow university programs that create an employment demand. They target our new generation of students through university. Young people these days somehow see nuclear energy as a "green" energy. But this could not be further from the truth.

I could go on, but it really comes down to providing an alternative to nuclear that will match our growing need for electricity. If not nuclear, then what?

Time and time again nuclear proponents tout the benefits of the base load of electricity it provides to the overall grid.

To that point I organized a panel discussion in February 2022 at City Club of Eugene when I was on the programming committee.

I invited experts from the USA and Canada.

This list of 4 people included the director of the West coast electrical grid (which includes Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, and most of Montana),

The participants included:

- Janine Benner (Director of Oregon Department of Energy),
- Maury Galbraith (Executive Director, Western Interstate Energy Board),
- Amory B. Lovins (Adjunct Professor, Stanford University and international advisor to countries like Sweden and India on green energy production),
- M.V. Ramana, (Simons Chair in Disarmament, Global and Human Security, University of British Columbia.)

In this Google Drive link you will find:

- The press release by City Club of Eugene that provides the background of each speaker
- Amory Lovins slides from his presentation.
- A breakdown of construction of the Vogtle reactor in Georgia
- A document about SMRs by Arjun Makhijani and Michele Boyd that addresses the different models of SMRs, their supposed cost, concerns about safety, quality and licensing,

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1RXyfuMyqr-9Zd1OB3thwUz5jQ4jwHZwL?usp=sharing>

In addition, the failure of the government and nuclear lobby to adequately address the cascading suffering of innocent bystanders (see the Hanford Downwinders, the vast population of youth and adults diagnosed from radiation exposure to the Fukushima meltdowns, etc) and the lack of accountability inherent in reporting impacts of ionizing radiation on human physiology (via the latent period of carcinogenesis) makes building new nuclear plants a no-go.

And if nothing else makes sense, the one thing that anyone voting on this issue needs to know is:

Nuclear energy relies on POLITICAL STABILITY, PEACE, and STABLE FUNDING. Our current political situation does not check either of those boxes