



To: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
From: Climate Energy Environment Team of COIN
Re: SB 215
Date: March 3, 2025

Chair Sollman, Vice Chair Smith, and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment,

The Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN), representing 50 local chapters across the state, is submitting comments **opposed to SB 215**. Many comments, including from COIN, have been submitted for the many bills this year relating to nuclear energy, describing why nuclear power is not a good choice: not for financial reasons, safety reasons, nor to respond to the climate crisis. I will not repeat those here.

In 1980 Oregon voters voted by 53% to require a further vote of the people to approve any new nuclear energy generating facility, and that a permanent waste facility be available. Forty-five years have gone by and still there is no waste repository, nor is one going to become available any time soon. And yet another supposedly new reactor design that would not produce any waste, the traveling wave reactor, was dropped a few years ago.

So does it make sense to ask the voters if they have changed their mind? Should the accident in Japan at Fukushima convince voters to change their mind? And Oregon is subject to the same kind of huge subduction earthquake as the one that caused the Fukushima disaster. Does the promise of a new type of reactor which has yet to be built in the United States or western Europe (there is one in Russia and China) justify a vote?

An initiative means spending millions, or maybe tens of millions of dollars, on campaigns. It means being swamped by TV commercials. The main advocates for such an initiative are likely to be Alphabet and Amazon, two of the largest and wealthiest corporations in the world. Spending tens of millions on a campaign in Oregon is pocket change for them. Initiatives are an important pressure release for our democracy, but until we see functional small modular reactors at a competitive price, maybe even one that does not produce waste, as we have been promised for so many years, COIN believes that it is premature to send this issue back to voters. This is clearly not the direction that energy technology is moving.

Respectfully,
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Climate Energy Environment Team of
Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network
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