

March 4, 2025

To: Chair Sollmon
Vice-Chair Brock
Senator Golden
Senator Pham
Senator Robinson

Subject: No on SB 216

As we understand it, this bill removes two essential laws related to building nuclear power plants. First, it no longer requires a licensed place to dispose of high-level radioactive waste before a nuclear plant can be built. And yet, 45 years later the nuclear fusion process still produces radio-active waste. Forty-five years later, this waste is still hazardous, risking public and worker health at every stage of the process. Forty-five years later sites will be still be nuclear waste repositories, contaminating drinking water sources, agricultural lands, and harming the health of nearby residents and "downwinders." Forty-five years later nuclear energy is still inherently risky due to the potential for catastrophic accidents from human error, malfunctions, or natural disasters like earthquakes and extreme weather. Forty-five years later nuclear energy facilities are even more dangerous invitations for terrorism. Forty-five years later nuclear energy facilities still cost taxpayers a fortune to construct, maintain and de-commission. Forty-five years later the SMNRs used in this generation produce waste with have half-lives of thousands of years.

Second, it gets rid of the need for voters to approve a proposed nuclear power plant. This bill takes power away from Oregonians and our historic stance on keeping nuclear power out of our state until there is strong regulation around the storage of nuclear waste. Voters that have turned down a sales tax nine times in 90 years aren't going to forget their distaste for life-altering legislation without their approval. Neither are they going to forget their distaste for nuclear energy's hazards (especially untested methods), even 45 years later.

Please keep our legacy of healthy people and environment over corporate profits. Please keep Oregon nuclear-free! Please vote no.

Respectfully,

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