



To: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR

Date: March 5, 2025

Sub: Testimony in opposition to SB 215 and SB 216

Chair Sollman, Vice Chair Brock Smith, and members of the Senate Committee On Energy and Environment,

I am the Coalition Director at the Oregon League of Conservation Voters. The Oregon Conservation Network (OCN) is coordinated through the Oregon League of Conservation Voters (OLCV). It is a network of 42 not-for-profit organizations throughout Oregon, united to advocate for pro-conservation legislation and to fight policies that threaten our state's natural legacy.

I am testifying in opposition to SB 215 and SB 216 today.

These bills would repeal the necessary and critical safeguards that currently regulate the development of nuclear power in Oregon, weakening environmental protections and, in the case of SB 216 negating necessary voter engagement.

Oregon's current moratorium on nuclear power development requires two essential conditions to be met before a site certificate can be issued:

1. The U.S. has a national nuclear waste repository and
2. Oregon voters approve a repeal of the moratorium

Both bills would irrevocably weaken the existing moratorium by removing these safeguards. Which would in turn expose Oregonians to unnecessary risks without resolving the major issues of nuclear energy, including long-term waste storage, safety concerns, and high costs.

Several environmental organizations, including OCN members, are actively working to oppose these bills and defend Oregon's longtime nuclear safeguard. SB 215 and SB 216 are on the Hotlist as "Bills of Concern" due to their potential harm to our state's environmental policies. If these bills continue to move forward, OCN will start the process to consider designation both SB 215 and SB 216 as as "Major Threats to a Healthy Oregon."

I urge the committee to oppose SB 215 and SB 216 and maintain the essential safeguards that protect Oregonians and our environment. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Eliza Walton

Sincerely,
Eliza Walton
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Oregon League of Conservation Voters
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Submitted On behalf of OCN Member Organizations:

1000 Friends of Oregon | Association of Oregon Recyclers | Beyond Toxics | Bird Alliance of Oregon | Cascadia Wildlands | Center for Biological Diversity | Center for Food Safety | Central Oregon Landwatch | Climate Solutions | Defenders of Wildlife | Deschutes River Alliance | Engineers for a Sustainable Future | The Environmental Center | Environment Oregon | Food & Water Watch | Friends of Mt. Hood | Friends of the Columbia Gorge | Friends of Family Farmers | Greater Hells Canyon Council | League of Women Voters of Oregon | Native Fish Society | Neighbors for Clean Air | Oceana | Oregon Coast Alliance | Oregon Environmental Council | Oregon League of Conservation Voters | Oregon Land and Water Alliance | Oregon Natural Desert Association | Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility | Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition | Oregon Wild | Renewable Northwest | Rogue Riverkeeper | Sierra Club, Oregon Chapter | The Street Trust | Surfrider Foundation | Trout Unlimited, Oregon Council | Tualatin Riverkeepers | WaterWatch of Oregon | Wetlands Conservancy | Wild Salmon Center | Willamette Riverkeeper