

March 6, 2025

Committee: Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Opposition to SB 216

These comments are being submitted on behalf of Karyn Jones, Susan Jones, Stephanie Jensen and Joanne Oman Richardson.

As residents of Umatilla County, we vehemently oppose SB 216.

SB 216 is an attempt to circumvent Oregon Ballot Measure 7 that was passed by Oregon voters in 1980, prohibiting the construction of all nuclear reactors of any size in Oregon. The ballot measure requires a Federally licensed repository for nuclear waste. No such licensed storage facility currently exists in the United States. This will lead to on-site long-term storage of hazardous nuclear waste, posing safety and environmental risks both short term and over the centuries.

If a Federally licensed nuclear waste repository becomes available, Oregon voters should retain the right to vote on site certification for each reactor throughout the state.

Oregon voters have already clearly spoken on this issue. The Oregon legislature should not bypass or ignore the Oregon voters.

We are incorporating by reference testimony in opposition to SB 216 submitted by Alan Journet on behalf of Southern Oregon Climate Action Now; Andy Harris and Regna Merritt for Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility; Sierra Club; Columbia River Keepers; Oregon Conservancy Foundation; and the Progressive Party.

We reiterate our strong opposition to SB 216.

Sincerely,
Karyn Jones