

Submitter: Alison Cole

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB216

To the honorable members of the committee,

This short testimony is a note of opposition to the language proposed in SB 216. Repealing the will of Oregon voters to prevent the storage of radioactive waste in our state demonstrates a lack of integrity on behalf of its authors. Communities that produce radioactive waste must live with it forever. Storage is prohibitively expensive and significant resources are spent on the monitoring and upkeep of containment facilities. Lakeview, Oregon, is once such legacy storage site, and Green River, Utah, as well Grants, New Mexico provide similar examples. Each of these communities is noted to have significantly higher rates of cancers associated with radioactive element exposure. Since its inception in 1990, over 41,900 Americans in western states have been compensated under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act to the tune of \$2.6 billion taxpayer dollars. Even if the proponents of this bill care little for worker safety or community health, they surely must care about the enormous expenses associated with the removal and impossible storage of radioactive waste products.