

RE HB 3681 House Committee on climate, energy & environment

Re electric transmission lines

Re statutory overhaul to allow SMRs to be sited within the state of OREGON.

As a 9-year member of EFSC I understand the statute (ORS 469) and its mandate to prohibit siting of nuclear facilities. I also was a nuclear regulator for the state of Oregon. Important facts continue to be ignored:

1. Small Modular Reactors can be sited at the location where the generated power is used and therefore do not require transmission lines; and
2. Up to 96% of nuclear fuel can be recycled, leaving very little nuclear waste. Jimmy Carter was responsible for the prohibition of recycling domestic nuclear fuel (fuel from nuclear plants operated in the domestic sector not the military sector); military nuclear fuel still is recycled. Not recycling domestic nuclear fuel is significant in the medical sector. Medical radionuclides are harvested from the recycled fuel; nowadays, without domestic fuel recycling, medical radionuclides must be produced in accelerators with subsequent chemical processing. Having a ready supply of radionuclides from fuel is much cheaper than having to make them in an accelerator.
3. There's still a significant fraction of Oregon voters who oppose the repeal of the nuclear statute (47678). Oregon HB3548 (2025) will begin the process of repealing the 1980 prohibition for creation of nuclear waste.

I voice my support for repeal of the prohibition to site nuclear facilities based on current needs for power and for elimination of power transmission lines.

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