

Submitter: Laura Feldman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB215

Good Day Chair Sollman, and Senate Energy and Environment committee members,

My name is Laura Feldman. I was born and raised in Portland Oregon where I still live, downriver from the Hanford nuclear waste site and approximately 40 miles upriver from the Trojan nuclear waste site. The decommissioning and demolition of the Trojan plant began in 1993 and was largely completed in 2006. All spent fuel rods (high level waste) were transferred to 36 dry casks still sitting on the banks of the Columbia waiting for transfer to a high level waste deep geological repository which doesn't exist. Wikipedia The casks sit within the Cascadia Subduction Earthquake zone.

I oppose all three pro-nuclear bills: SB215, SB216, SB635.

Repealing Oregon's 45 year old moratorium to introduce new nuclear reactors beginning with Umatilla County, a county already impacted by Hanford, is a recipe for ongoing generational nuclear disaster. And to do this without voter referral is in keeping with the secrecy shrouding the Manhattan Project which this region's inhabitants payed for with their health and their lives.

There are solutions to increased energy production that have just begun inching forward at Hanford and in Oregon—two of the country's largest solar arrays! At Hanford, Hecate, the developer, will have access to 10,300 acres that the government has determined sufficiently safe to redevelop.

If all goes according to plan, the Hecate project, which is expected to be completed in 2030, will generate up to 2,000 megawatts of electricity — enough roughly to supply all the homes in Seattle, San Francisco, and Denver — and store 2,000 more in a large battery installation at a total cost of \$4 billion. The photovoltaic panels and batteries will provide twice as much energy as a conventional nuclear power plant. The nation's current biggest solar plant, the Copper Mountain Solar Facility in Nevada, can generate up to 802 megawatts of energy.

If the solar array and batteries can be brought online for \$4 billion it would be a fraction of the cost of a conventional nuclear power plant. As the article reported, this site is 200,000 acres, there's enough room for dozens of similar sized solar projects.

--https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/05/business/hanford-nuclear-site-solar-farm.html?unlocked_article_code=1.1k4.F0TY.DuYn2VWwY4Ex&s

In Oregon the state's largest solar farm will occupy about 10,000 acres of active farmland in Morrow County as it pushes to fulfill ambitious clean energy mandates. The mammoth project also takes a novel approach to offset the negative economic impacts to the local agricultural economy. Upon the start of construction, the developer will contribute \$1,179 per acre – or up to approximately \$11 million for the 9,400 acres – to a new agricultural mitigation fund set up with Morrow County. The fund, administered by the county, will funnel the money to projects focused on dryland winter wheat farming.

Sunstone Solar is one of countless renewable energy projects coming online in Oregon to fulfill the state's aggressive climate targets which require the state's two major electric companies — Portland General Electric and Pacific Power — to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with electricity sold in Oregon by 80% by 2030 and to reach 100% emission-free electricity sources by 2040.

--<https://www.oregonlive.com/environment/2024/12/oregon-approves-states-largest-solar-farm-on-10000-acres-of-farmland.html>

This is the way forward. Along with wind and water and conservation we can meet the climate targets. Nuclear can't match these renewables in terms of safety, time, waste and cost. We are about to choose whether we will support the big tech corporate grab of state lands feeding off of delays, and subsidies for political-economic control of how we live and die, or we are going to choose to move into the future with all that we are and care about.

Thank you,

Laura