March 12, 2025

Dear Senate Committee on Energy and Environment:

RE: SB 215, 216, and 635:

I ask you to vote NO on SB 215, 216, and 635. If you continue to promote Small Modular Nuclear Reactors (SMNR's) that will produce far more nuclear waste, then all of you in Oregon will be stuck with this highly toxic nuclear waste for many years to come. The Trojan Nuclear Power plant dry casks are a cautionary tale. There is no evidence that dry casks for SMNR's will be a long term safe way for storage and there is no long term repository. I ask you on behalf of all people in Oregon and those who will also be affected in Washington State that you keep the Moratorium on no new nuclear. Utilize the millions of dollars for development of renewable power grids that would be feasible with known technologies that can be currently deployed and more quickly improved upon in the times frames we have now.

I am submitting this past testimony from Mr. Kevin Kamps (November 3, 2020) to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) that discusses in depth the dangers of nuclear waste and no safe place to store nuclear waste contrary to what the nuclear industry says. I quote him below and provide the reference link to read his entire testimony:

Cautionary Tales -- Get the Facts on High-Level Atomic Waste Storage Casks!

https://www.nrc.gov/docs/ML2030/ML20309B080.pdf

". . . NRC has stated that dry cask storage is safe and reliable for up to 100 years. However, problems with dry casks have surfaced not after decades or a century, but almost immediately in the first few years, raising serious questions about the NRC cask certification process itself. Evidence documents that the NRC's CoC process has been taken over by cask manufacturers' and nuclear utilities' profit-driven pressure for expediency. The consequent lack of rigorous regulatory oversight has resulted in a complete lack of field testing of cask designs, NRC approval for exemptions allowing manufacturers to build casks before receiving the certificate of compliance, and mounting evidence of poor quality assurance and quality control of cask manufacturing. In fact, a whisteblower fired by the largest nuclear utility in the U.S. alleges major quality assurance (QA) violations involving Holtec storage/transport containers. Oscar Shirani served as a lead QA inspector for Commonwealth Edison/Exelon of Chicago for many years, earning impeccable credentials. A consortium of nuclear utilities invited Shirani to lead a QA inspection of Holtec cask design and manufacturing in 2000. Shirani identified 9 major QA violations (such as unauthorized welding, large numbers of departures from design specifications, and use of potentially shoddy materials), leading him to

question the structural integrity of the containers, especially under severe transportation accident conditions. Shirani's discovery followed an NRC-led QA inspection just months earlier that had identified no problems with the Holtec casks, casting huge doubt upon the competence and credibility of NRC's QA regulatory oversight.Shirani sought a "stop work order" against the manufacture of the Holtec casks until the QA violations were rectified. Instead, Exelon harassed and ultimately fired him. Shirani has been blacklisted from the nuclear industry ever since, and his allegations have never been addressed. Frighteningly, Holtec casks are already in use at 33 U.S. nuclear reactors (see locations under "Spent Fuel Systems Division" at www.holtecinternational.com/). Numerous technical problems with fully loaded dry casks are popping up around the country at an alarming rate, leading to charges from concerned citizens living nearby that ISFSI's (pronounced "is-IF-sees") are very "iffy," and represent "nuclear experiments" in their backyard.". . .

Sincerely,
Nancy Morris