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Comments on HB 3445  
Before HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT  
May 19, 2015

I have been a faculty member in the Department of Nuclear Engineering and Radiation Health Physics for more than twenty years. During that time we have had thousands of students pass through our programs in nuclear engineering and radiation health physics. They are employed in high paying jobs in the nuclear industry, in defense, in government service, and in research labs. Unfortunately, until just recently, they rarely found nuclear jobs within the State of Oregon.

I am very supportive of HB 3445 and the establishment of a Task Force on Nuclear Power. Since the closure of the Trojan Nuclear Power plant, there have been several new concepts in reactor design, and tremendous strides made in their safety and operating efficiency. It is very appropriate that the State undertake a review of new reactor designs, their costs, and how they may fit within the energy needs and strategy for the State.

I am delighted that the Task Force will include representation from a member of Oregon State University who teaches and or conducts research in the field of nuclear energy. I believe you will find several world recognized experts that would strongly support the mission of this committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathryn A. Higley".

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