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Before the House Committee on Energy and Environment

Testimony of Lloyd K. Marbet, May 19, 2015

Madam Chairperson, members of the Committee, and members of the public, my name is Lloyd Marbet and I am the Executive Director of the Oregon Conservancy Foundation. I appear before you today in opposition to HB 3445.

This bill creates, at taxpayer expense, an official cheerleading squad advocating the use of nuclear power in Oregon. It does so in a clever way:

1. It creates a nine member Task Force that shall study and report on methods to procure nuclear energy, along with an analysis of the costs and benefits of using it for Oregon's energy needs. (Page 1, Section 1, subpart (2)(a)(b)(c), lines 19-25.)

Regardless of the results of this analysis, the Task Force is then mandated to "recommend a strategy for the contribution of nuclear power to...inexpensive and environmentally sound energy for this state." (Section 1, subpart (2)(d), lines 26-27.)

This is pure cheerleading, regardless of the weight or adequacy of evidence, and in addition we are asked to ignore the actual performance of this technology:

- a. **Its never ending cost overruns and ongoing nuclear accidents which are not inexpensive nor environmentally sound.** ¹ (Lester Brown's book below is a thoughtful analysis and a worthy read!)
- b. **Its continuing failure to permanently dispose of commercial high level nuclear waste.** All of the Trojan Nuclear Plant's high level radioactive waste is in 34 dry casks stored on a concrete pad above the

¹ See chapter 4 (*Nuclear Power in Decline*) in Lester Brown's newly published book: *The Great Transition - Shifting from Fossil Fuels to Solar and Wind Energy*.

Columbia River. It awaits a nuclear garbage man to come take its waste to a permanent repository that's yet to exist. You would think that nuclear proponents would first demonstrate the successful clean up existing waste before advocating more be produced.

2. **The proposed Task Force is not unbiased.** It consists of nine members. Four of those members are from the nuclear and/or electric power industries, and the fifth is from Oregon State University, which is actively testing and promoting reactor designs, including NuScale's modular nuclear reactor under licensing review by the NRC. (Page 1, Section 1(1), lines 4-18)

This Task Force sets its own rules, and is authorized to recommend legislation. **There is no limit on how much money it spends, or how it will affect the workload of other state agencies.** (Page 2, Section 1(8)(9)(10), lines 7-12.)

In order for the Task Force to create its “strategy for the contribution of nuclear power” in Oregon, it will have to recommend repealing the law passed by voters requiring a federally licensed waste repository and a vote of the people before a commercial nuclear plant can be licensed in this state. (ORS 469.595 - 597) We will absolutely oppose this repeal!

If the Legislature truly wants an unbiased report on the costs and benefits of nuclear power, then I suggest appointing an unbiased hearing officer to hold a contested case proceeding, allowing both pro-nuclear and anti-nuclear parties to intervene, with the power to present evidence, conduct cross examination and provide a final analysis of the record. But I know from experience that the nuclear industry will seek to avoid that kind of transparency, and it would be far better for this Legislature to fully embrace conservation and renewable energy which is fast leaving nuclear power and fossil fuels in its cost effective dust.

Nuclear energy has no future except where energy production is centrally planned, where economically competitive options are suppressed, and where no open and informed democratic debate is possible. Wherever nuclear energy has been subjected to the test of the free market, it has not survived. The condition for the survival of nuclear energy, therefore, are state subsidies and an absence of free debate.

– Sir James Goldsmith, "The Trap" page 147

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I ask that you reject HB 3445.