
From: T Mueller <treeonly@q.com>
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To: Hernandez Maria
Subject: testimony on SB 990

Please reject SB990—a bill which would allow “mini nukes” in our cities. The design of these nukes is experimental and poses the same risks Oregon voters considered when rejecting nuclear plants in 1980.

In 1954 nuclear power was promised to make electricity “too cheap to meter.” Somehow they left out the costs of disposing of nuclear waste. Trojan on the Columbia operated only half of its operational lifespan, costing 500 billion to build and 410 million to unbuild in 1993. Hanford, housing combined weapons waste and energy plant waste that dwarfs Chernobyl, is not even due to have a “permanent” waste repository until 2048, and it will take until 2062 to sequester that waste. The changes in technology, and in our comprehension of the dangers, has cost us dearly over the years, since this year’s clever solution (asbestos, neutralizing salts, stainless steel coated glass logs) quickly becomes next year’s expensive, life-endangering glitch. Given Trump’s shredding of the EPA, can we trust that the DOE will spend our tax dollars lining the radioactive tunnels properly instead of lining the pockets of the nuclear contractors? No. We’d better work on the signage to convey the risks we’ll leave behind for the inhabitants of earth two ice ages from now. I’ve been thinking about this issue since reading Henning Mankell’s Quicksand: What it Means to Be a Human Being. He writes beautifully, from the perspective of a dying man, on “the long dance of the generations.” I recommend the book to you, as you discuss nuclear energy and waste; when dealing with such things you must think WAY beyond the “seven generations” to the distant future of our planet.

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