

May 23, 2017

Re: In Support for SB 990, exemptions for small modular reactors.

To the House Committee on Energy and Environment,

My name is Kyle Brumback and I'm a graduate student at Oregon State University in the School of Nuclear Science and Technology. I am in support of SB 990, exempting small modular reactors from certain siting criteria that apply to large, nuclear power plants.

During the 1980's legislation that was passed, the power facilities at the time were assumed to provide electricity to a good portion of the state. Therefore, it only made sense to have a statewide vote from the electors. This is not the case for small modular reactors. Small reactors are being designed to only supply power to a small community. If a community has the desire to power their homes with a small nuclear reactor, why should someone across the state have the right to stop them. With implementation of this new bill, the electors of community still must vote and approve the reactor site. It still prevents a utility from building a nuclear plant without a community's approval.

Small modular reactors are a way to empower a city or county will reliable, constant power generation. Although, solar and wind have their benefits, they do not provide the necessary support some communities need. Intermittency is a luxury only some can afford.

Small reactor designs, such as NuScale, have be in development for over a decade. But when it comes to small reactors, that's not forget they already exist. The United States Navy has been operating small reactors aboard their submarine force for over 60 years without accident. As a veteran of the USN nuclear program, I can ensure you of the safety record that the small naval reactors hold.

Even with the passing of this legislation then a community's approval, the construction of a small modular reactor would still be 10 – 15 years away and have been tested be then. The fears of many citizens that nuclear plants will immediately start being built are unjust and uninformed.

I encourage you to support SB 990 and vote yes. Let small modular reactors help fight climate change. Let small modular reactors assist renewables in lowering greenhouse gas emissions. Let nuclear technologies have a chance to help Oregon prosper.

Thank you for your time and efforts to ensure Oregon thrives in the future.

Sincerely,
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