

RE: Testimony on SB 990 - which "Exempts small modular reactors from certain siting restrictions that apply to nuclear-fueled thermal power plants."

To Oregon State House Committee on Energy and Environment: Representative Ken Helm, Chair; Rep. Mark Johnson, Vice Chair; Rep. Karin Power, Vice chair; Rep. Phil Barnhart; Rep. Cliff Bentz; Rep. Paul Holvey; Rep. Pam Marsh; Rep. E. Werner Reschke; Rep. David Brock Smith;

Dear Representatives,

Please vote a resounding "No" on SB 990.

I am a forty year resident of the state of Oregon. Born in 1947, not long after the nuclear bombs were dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, I grew up in the unprecedented age of nuclear awareness, nuclear threats, nuclear power and the tragic incidents involving the use of nuclear technology.

As I write this, Hanford's nuclear waste storage tunnels are collapsing and yet here we are, confronted with SB 990!

In 1980, wise Oregonian voters passed a moratorium prohibiting the financing and construction of nuclear power plants until the Federal Government establishes a permanent repository to license and accept high level radio-active waste generated by these facilities. In addition, should any construction of a nuclear facility proceed in Oregon, it **must be approved by the Oregon voters.**

SB 990 would no longer require either of these prohibitions, which is astounding, given the nuclear fiascos that have occurred. Storage technology and systems that meets the requirements for any new nuclear plant do not exist. Both large and "modular" facilities create highly radioactive and **extremely lethal radioactive waste material and require permanent storage that will isolate it for many hundreds of years or longer, without the danger** of leaks, collapsing tunnels, terrorism, etc. The seriousness of the downsides of nuclear power cannot be overstated.

SB 990 is an **insult to the democratic process**, as it seeks to bypass the will of the Oregon voters, usurping our 1980 decision to bring a state-wide vote for any new plant. Radio-active waste is a problem for all of us, not only those who live in the vicinity of a plant.

SB 990 was **rushed through the Oregon Senate** with a smooth passage. How many Oregonians knew about this serious legislation? I saw articles written about the **naming of a new state bird** and even debate over it, but little to nothing about SB 990. Oregonians need time to process and make their own decision - via statewide conversation, editorials, scientific debate, public events and, most importantly, a state-wide election.

Let's instead **focus on safe, renewable energy options** such as solar energy. Scientists are developing ways to harness the energy of ocean tides. Conservation also plays a large roll in diminishing our need for more and more energy. We can do it! And I believe that's what Oregonians prefer. Ask them.

To pass SB 990 would be a blow to the democratic process. It would create uncertainty and fear over the very real potential dangers lurking ahead, not only in the future of our own lives, our children and grandchildren's, but twenty or more generations out. **Please vote "No." Thank you.**

Sincerely,

Gretchen Newlin  
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