

RE: Senate Bill 990

May 24, 2017

Chair Helm and members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment.

I urge you to reject SB 990. This bill will reverse Oregon's current protections against nuclear waste-producing activities in place since 1980 as the result of a state-wide vote which passed with a comfortable margin. It would create an exemption to ORS 469.595 and 469.597.

This bill would allow cities and counties to vote in favor of nuclear reactors of 300 megawatts or less without a permanent repository in place to bury high-level radioactive waste. Radioactive waste from PGE's Trojan plant remains in casks after it was shut down in 1992 and is still generating significant heat and radiation. The half-life - the time it takes 50% of the material to decay - of radioactive materials in "spent" nuclear fuel ranges from 30 years for Strontium 90 and Cesium 137 to 24,110 years for Plutonium 239.

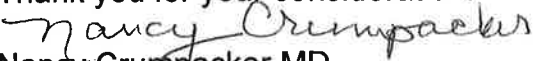
At Hanford just this month there was the tunnel collapse on May 9th. Did you hear about the detection of a leak in a double wall waste storage tank on May 19? Handling radioactive waste over long periods of time is a major challenge.

As a retired oncologist, I know of one proven cause - not an association - of cancer and it is radiation. Exposure to radiation acutely results in various grades of illness including death. Accidents happen. This company claims its reactors are safe because of the design. No phase of nuclear-generated energy is free from causing adverse human health effects. Accidents happen.

Forget the benefit of a new tax source; this bill is in opposition to each Oregon legislator's duty to protect the health of all Oregonians.

Vote NO.

Thank you for your consideration.


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