

SB 990 Testimony Against SB 990

May 24, 2017 Nancy Matela Alliance for Democracy

The Alliance for Democracy opposes SB 990

Testimony from the Alliance for Democracy was submitted two days ago, but I would like to make a correction and add several points.

Our testimony stated that there was no public hearing before the Senate's vote. That is incorrect. However, very few organizations and citizens knew about the bill; hence almost no one was here to voice opinions..

Nothing has changed since the passage of ballot Measure 7 in 1980 with regard to safe disposal or storage of nuclear waste. And the current storage at Hanford is failing as we speak. In the past two weeks alone, two leaks occurred that are considered very dangerous in terms of radioactive materials potentially being released in the air and the Columbia River. Hanford is just a few miles from Oregon and 160 from Portland.

Almost all of the 99 nuclear power plants in the U.S. are at capacity for storage of spent nuclear fuel rods. A number of years ago, the DOE began hearings on their idea to begin trucking the spent fuel and other high-level waste from across the nation to Hanford. These trucks would have gone up I-5 and across I-84. I asked at one of the hearings how dangerous is high-level nuclear waste. I was told that one cup of plutonium if set on the table in the hearing room would kill every one of us. Within one hour. That room was about the size of this room.

The second point I'd like to make is that towns, cities and counties can become desperate with need for revenue. A case in point, Cascade Locks wants to sell and bottle their spring water because of their depressed economic situation. It is easily imaginable for a town or county to approve the building of nuclear power plants in order to get jobs. This is normally understandable. But no town, city or county should put the fate of all Oregonians in its hands with the threat of nuclear waste in our air, water and land from inevitable accidents because they need a few hundred jobs. In fact, the state of Washington puts many Oregonians in potential jeopardy with the continuation of the running of the aged nuclear power plant, Columbia Generating Station.

In closing, it is hard to support such an idea with its dangers let alone expense when every day we hear how solar and wind are growing by leaps and bounds and with it, thousands of jobs.

Please vote no on SB 990.

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