

Resolution That the Multnomah County Democrats Oppose SB 990

May 24, 2017

Whereas: in 1980, Oregon's voters approved a moratorium on the financing and construction of nuclear power plants until: (1) a permanent repository for extremely dangerous and long-lived high level nuclear waste is established by the federal government and is licensed to operate and accept the waste from the proposed plant; and, (2) voters approve any new proposed plant in a statewide vote, and

Whereas: to this day, nearly 40 years later, no such disposal site has been licensed, and

Whereas: the extremely difficult problem of safely storing waste that will remain lethal for centuries and dangerous for millennia has not been solved, and

Whereas: SB 990 violates the 1980 initiative's requirement for a statewide vote, instead requiring a public vote only in the city or county in which the proposed nuclear power plant is planned to be constructed., and

Whereas: The intended beneficiary of SB 990, the NuScale/Fluor reactor system being designed in Corvallis, is unproven technology that has not yet been built anywhere in the world, and

Whereas: the hazardous waste generated by this system is identical to waste generated by the current fleet of 99 nuclear power plants in the United, and

Whereas: the reactor design was submitted for a review by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission that is not expected to be completed until 2020, and a first-of-its-kind of this system will only begin construction begin in 2022, not completed until 2026, and

Whereas: any new nuclear power plant system ought to prove itself before our State Legislature should even consider creating loopholes through a voter-passed law, and

Whereas: the required capital would be better invested in renewable energy, such as solar, wind, and storage, for both economic and ecological reasons, and

Therefore be it resolved that: SB 990 being ill-advised and premature legislation, the Multnomah County Democrats register our strong opposition to the passage of SB 990 by the Oregon House.