

TO: House Committee on Health Care
Representative Rachel Prusak, Chair
Representative Cedric Hayden, Vice-Chair
Representative Andrea Salinas, Vice-Chair
Committee Members

FROM: Barbara J. Smith
State Radiation Advisory Committee Chair

SUBJECT: HB 2075

Chairperson Prusak and members of the committee, I am Barbara Smith.

I have worked in medical imaging for 40 years in hospitals, clinics and educational settings and have always found RPS to be helpful. They make sure that equipment is working properly and are always willing to work with registrants if any problems are found. RPS is essential for the health and safety of all Oregonians, patients, workers and the general public.

Currently I am serving as Chairperson of the State Radiation Advisory Committee which has 8 members representing all RPS registrants and licensees. There are over 4100 facilities using approximately 13,900 radiation producing devices and sources of radiation. The Radiation Advisory Committee provides guidance to the RPS staff regarding budgetary matters and creation of regulatory administrative rules.

Being a Radiation Advisory Committee member since 2014 has allowed me to observe how well this agency works in serving the people of Oregon. Besides my personal experience of their service in medical imaging they also are involved in working with industry radioactive materials, responding to any problems related to Hanford that could impact Oregon, tanning devices, radon, monitoring air and water, to name just a few areas affecting Oregonians.

The Radiation Advisory Committee supports the need for additional program funding. RPS is a 100% user-fee based program which receives no General Funds. The last fee increases were in 2015. Increasing fees will reverse a projected funding deficit and provide financial stability. Without additional funding, RPS will have to significantly reduce its emergency response and regulatory inspection programs and staffing. This will increase the potential for injury and harm from unnecessary exposure to radiation.

Please pass HB 2075 so they can continue their work.

Thank you for giving me the chance to give testimony.

Barbara J. Smith, MS, RT(R)(QM), FASRT, FAEIRS
Chair, Radiation Advisory Committee