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Attention: **Jt. Committee on Ways & Means, Subcommittee on Natural Resources**

SB 5515

Co-Chairs Taylor & Reardon, Members Anderson, Frederick, Breese-Iverson, Holvey, Pham & Smith

For the record, my name is Steve March, former State Representative and Multnomah County Auditor. I have a rather long association with the Department of Energy, starting as the Speaker's appointee to the Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board (OHCB) in the early 2000's, leaving in 2006, then coming back to OHCB in 2013 as a Governor's appointee, and now nearing the end of my two four-year appointments. In addition to that I serve on the Department's Audit Committee.

I have had the opportunity to observe the over those years and from different perspectives, so I have no doubt in their abilities and operations. While on the way to some of the OHCB meetings I have had the opportunity to observe staff in the performance of one of their lesser-known duties, Nuclear Safety & Emergency Preparation. Staff carry emergency beepers and are able to check in from various locations in the state. Fortunately, the times I have been party to that they were tests, but it is good for Oregonians to know that they stay on top of potential emergencies.

Every budget cycle seems to be tough and I recognize the proposed budget contains six fewer positions than were asked for in the last budget cycle. I would ask that, at the least, no further reductions are taken.

Thank you,

Steve March