

Submitter: Elaine Kelley

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2215

I testify in opposition to HB 2215. The untruths about small modular nuclear plants are already out there, leading the public in the wrong direction and falsely claiming nukes to be the answer to climate change. Our direction should be toward conservation, reduced consumption, and sustainability, not more and more power for an unlimited growth economy that is fast destroying the planet. All evil begins with a lie, and there are many in this new push to resurrect an old demon deity. First lie, that it is needed. Less, less, less consumption is what's needed. Green industries and alternative energy. Consumption and waste are the cornerstones of this existing economy, historic in proportion and nauseating in its effects. Second lie, that it's safe. Safe? High level radioactivity is not safe. You don't have to be an expert to know that. Melt downs are not safe either, and we've had a few close calls with that. Third lie, that nuclear is carbon-free. That's the big lie, the one the industry is using to build public support. Wrong! The fuel cycle from beginning to end puts out plenty of carbon emissions: uranium mining (mostly on native lands), refining, transportation, construction, decommissioning—all very dirty. The industry is very good at public relations (ie. lies); too cheap to meter, clean, safe, also promising a permanent high level nuclear waste repository. That was more than 50 years ago and we still don't have one. We need a new kind of economy, one based on reverence for life, sustainability, and justice. And we need legislators who are wise enough not to fall prey to corporate greed, who will take strong stands against their lies.