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**February 12, 2023**

## **Oregon Progressive Party**

### **Position on Bills at 2023 Session of Oregon Legislature:**

#### **HB 2215: Oppose**

The Oregon Progressive Party opposes this bill, which would

- Remove requirement that adequate repository for terminal disposition of high-level radioactive waste be licensed as precondition for issuance of site certificate for nuclear-fueled thermal power plant.
- Removes requirement that proposed site certificate for nuclear-fueled thermal power plant be submitted to electors of this state for approval or rejection.

Oregon voters in 1980 enacted a statewide ballot measure that adopted ORS 469.590, 469.593, 469.594, 469.595, 469.597, 469.599 and 469.601. This bill repeals all of those sections, which helped save Oregon from wasting more billions of dollars on nuclear power plants that would never have been completed (in addition to Oregon's share of WPPSS 1, 3, 4 & 5; Pebble Springs 1 & 2; Skagit-Hanford 1& 2). In the 1970s and 1980s, governments and utilities spent over \$40 billion on 120 nuclear plants that were abandoned before completion, and nearly all of that cost was charged to ratepayers and taxpayers. In 2017 two unfinished nuclear plants in South Carolina were abandoned, after costing \$9 billion. Its lead contractor, Westinghouse Corp., filed for bankruptcy.

A cover story in the February 11, 1985, issue of Forbes magazine stated:

The failure of the U.S. nuclear power program ranks as the largest managerial disaster in business history, a disaster on a monumental



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scale ... only the blind, or the biased, can now think that the money has been well spent. It is a defeat for the U.S. consumer and for the competitiveness of U.S. industry, for the utilities that undertook the program and for the private enterprise system that made it possible.

The Oregon Legislature should not countermand the wisdom of the voters on this issue.

The cost of wind and solar energy is far less than the cost of building and operating a nuclear power plant.

The apparent purpose of HB 2215 is to allow the siting in Oregon of "small modular reactors" (SMRs). The NuScale design for an SMR uses the same technology as conventional light water reactors and produces the same type of high-level radioactive waste, except more of it per unit of energy produced. The United States government has never licensed an adequate repository for the disposal of the high-level radioactive waste produced by" nuclear power plants, as required by ORS 469.595."

Much more information is provided to the Committee by the Oregon Conservancy Foundation.

## Oregon Progressive Party

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