



Columbia Riverkeeper
P.O. Box 950
Hood River, OR 97031
phone 541.387.3030
www.columbiariverkeeper.org

**Before the House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment
Columbia Riverkeeper's Testimony in Opposition to HB 2215
Submitted by Lauren Goldberg, Executive Director**

Columbia Riverkeeper offers the following testimony in opposition to HB 2215. Columbia Riverkeeper is a non-profit organization with a mission to restore and protect the water quality of the Columbia River and all life connected to it, from the headwaters to the Pacific Ocean. Columbia Riverkeeper has over 16,000 members and supporters who live, work, and recreate throughout the Columbia River Basin, including thousands of members and supporters in Oregon.

For over two decades, Columbia Riverkeeper has worked with Tribal Nations and people who rely on a clean Columbia to address toxic and radioactive waste at the Hanford Nuclear Site. Based on this experience, our organization has seen firsthand the complex challenges, and unanswered questions, when it comes to long-term management of nuclear waste. In turn, Columbia Riverkeeper continues to support Oregon's 1980 ballot measure, which protects Oregonians from new commercial nuclear reactor facilities until there is a federally licensed repository for nuclear waste. There is no indication the federal government has made headway to license a high-level nuclear waste repository.

If HB 2215 becomes law, and is subsequently passed by Oregon voters, it opens the door to the siting and operation of any kind of commercial nuclear power plant in Oregon, without first requiring a federally licensed repository for its high-level nuclear waste and statewide voter approval. In 2021, Columbia Riverkeeper released a [report](#) detailing the risks associated with siting a small modular nuclear reactor facility along the Columbia River near Hanford. That report contains critical background information for this committee to consider as it weighs the implications of HB 2215. Columbia Riverkeeper urges the committee to reject HB 2215.