

Submitter: Maryann Beirne
On Behalf Of: me and all sentient beings on Earth
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure: HB2215

Hello Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Levy and Levy, Committee members and staff,

I write in opposition to HB 2215 which would remove the requirement for adequate terminal disposal of High-level nuclear waste to build and run new nuclear reactors in Oregon.

Radioactive decay of these high-level radioactive materials would take hundreds of thousands of years which I would consider "forever".

Our immediate-gratification society has no appreciation for how long radioactive decay takes for the materials used in nuclear reactors to produce power and nuclear weapons. As a retired scientist I have been in conversations with other scientists over the years. I have learned that concrete is eaten by radioactive materials such as those making up the sides and bottoms of spent fuel pools at Hanford. I learned about the leaks of radioactive materials from Hanford into the ground water around Hanford and into the Columbia River in my Plant Ecology class in 1970 back in NJ. I had a dear friend and also some of her family members who contracted and died of cancer because of their childhood exposure to radiation by living in Richland, WA where her Father taught school. All the children in that family who were later born in Seattle had no cancer.

Listening to the earlier testimony by the business people who gain to profit from these reactors while the rest of us get to have a greater risk of exposure to radioactive materials, because they believe that all the waste can go to Yucca Mountain. Yucca Mountain proved to be a political 'hot potato' but it was also decided that the cavern there wasn't big enough to hold all the waste. "Congress has not provided any funding for Yucca Mountain in over 10 years," a spokesperson for the Office of Nuclear Energy told CNBC. (from a 2021 news story).

For example, Remember that Hanford, Yucca Mountain, Three Miles Island, Whoops aka WPPSS, were all built as government projects and their problems to this day stem from the old slogan "Good enough for government work" -- therefore - the leaks and sloppy construction that won't last for tens of thousand of years don't need a replay with these Small Modular Reactors creating more waste for which we have no safe storage or disposal system.

The other submitted opposition testimony is probably full of radioactive damage and danger stories. Stop movement on this Bill NOW. It is a danger to the people and living beings of Oregon and the whole Northwest. We don't need it. Energy efficient

building design and retrofiting, solar, wind and hydro can supply our energy needs.

Regards,
Maryann Beirne, MS
Salem, OR