

Submitter: Andy Seles

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2215

To: Ms. Pam Marsh, Chair, and Members of the Energy and Environment Committee

From: Andy Seles, Ashland, Oregon

Re: HB 2215

Date: 2/20/2023

Regarding nuclear power development in Oregon, I am opposed to HB 2215. Not only do nuclear power plants not have a good safety track record, nuclear waste can be radioactive for hundreds of thousands of years; safe storage remains a major obstacle for our environment. The risks of exposure to radiation or catastrophic accident, as history has shown, is far too great. Another risk that may be overlooked is the monetary risk. At a time when we need money put into alternatives to oil and coal, we do not need to be putting money into a dangerous technology that has been, despite overly optimistic promises of cost savings, historically replete with cost overruns. An article in ARS Technica, that took into account the purported cost savings of small modular reactors (SMRs), concludes that “there are no easy answers to how to make nuclear plant construction more efficient. And, until there are, it will continue to be badly undercut by both renewables and fossil fuel.” (<https://arstechnica.com/science/2020/11/why-are-nuclear-plants-so-expensive-safety-only-part-of-the-story/>)

But I’m just a layman. Please consider the viewpoints of an expert:

David Schlissel is the Institute of Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) Director of Resource Planning Analysis. His work focuses primarily on the technical and economic viability of resources being used or being proposed for use in the electric power sector. David has nearly five decades of experience testifying as an expert before state regulatory commissions in over 35 states, state legislatures, federal and state courts, and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory and Federal Energy Regulatory Commissions. (<https://theorg.com/org/institute-of-energy-economics-and-financial-analysis/org-chart/david-schlissel>)

Regarding small modular reactors, Mr. Schlissel recently said that “the higher costs ‘make it even more imperative’ for UAMPS *(Utah Associated Municipal Power System) and participating utilities and communities to seek information about other energy resources that can provide the same power and reliability as the SMR but at lower cost and less financial risk. “History shows that this won’t be the last cost increase for the SMR project,” he said. (<https://www.utilitydive.com/news/NuScale-small-modular-reactor-nuclear-NRC/641012/>)

I plead with the members of this committee, to vote NO on HB 2215 and I appreciate the opportunity to testify today.

*Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems (UAMPS) is a full-service interlocal agency, that provides comprehensive wholesale electric energy services, on a non-profit basis, to community-owned power systems throughout the Intermountain West. The UAMPS membership represents 50 members from Utah, Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico and Wyoming. (<https://www.uamps.com/>)