

**Statement for the Record**  
**House Committee on Climate , Energy and Environment**  
**February 13, 2023**  
**Support for Oregon HB 2215**

My name is Rod McCullum of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) where, for the past 24 years, I have had the distinct honor of representing the producers of America's largest and most reliable source of carbon free energy. I support HB2215. Lifting this moratorium now would enable the citizens of Oregon to directly benefit from the coming wave of advanced nuclear reactor deployments.

A survey of NEI member utilities found that the nation will need 300 advanced reactors by 2050 to guarantee reliable access to clean energy as 140 gigawatts of capacity, mostly fossil, is likely to be retired. A recent study by Vibrant Clean energy found that the lowest cost decarbonization scenario could be achieved while relying on these new machines to provide 43% of US electricity while wind and solar would provide 50%.

Of course, Oregon has a history with nuclear energy. During its operating life, the Trojan plant produced enough electricity to power every home in Oregon for four years. All that is left behind on a site that has otherwise been returned to nature are 34 SUV sized containers of used nuclear fuel on a small concrete pad. These containers are of the same robust design that has been commonly in use around the world since 1986. The containers at Trojan are licensed to continue to operate until 2059, but they need not remain there that long. The Department of Energy recently announced a \$26 million investment in community-based approaches to identifying sites where these containers can be consolidated away from reactor sites for more efficient storage. Private consolidated storage sites are also being considered in Texas and New Mexico. And while the US program for permanent disposal is currently on hold – Finland, Canada, Sweden, France, and Switzerland are all on track to have permanent disposal facilities operational between 2025 and 2050. As these nation's move forward, the US will have plenty of good examples to follow.

A lot has changed since this moratorium was enacted. 5 other states have recently repealed such moratoria and 4 others are considering it. Through long term storage solutions and globally demonstrated disposal technologies we know that used fuel can be safely managed. It is not a reason to forego Oregon's best opportunity to decarbonize. Approve HB2215 to provide Oregon with the most economical path to clean and reliable electricity.

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