

Submitter: Theodora Tsongas

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2215

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Levy and Levi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Dr. Theodora Tsongas, an environmental health scientist with a career in public health, speaking today to ask you to reject House Bill 2215 as unnecessary, wasteful of resources, and because it ignores the will of the people of Oregon, the people that still understand and reject the inherent dangers and adverse impacts on life and health that permitting nuclear reactors would bring to our State!

The 1980 resolution passed by a vote of the people of this state was to protect the state and the living beings within it from the well-known, and well documented threat of nuclear contamination of our air, water, land, wildlife and people that comes with nuclear power. But, apparently, the vote of the people cannot guarantee the protection from harm that the people of this state asked for until we can rely on government bodies, including this legislative body, to show consistency, respect, and understanding of the rationale for this decision by the people of this state to protect themselves and generations to come.

There is not anywhere to put the waste generated by existing and proposed nuclear power plants and the waste remains harmful to life and health for thousands of years. Attempts have been made to find a site, but it is unacceptable and unsuitable wherever it has been proposed. Every site of an existing nuclear power plant and those that have been "decommissioned", including the Trojan Plant in Oregon, still contains the nuclear wastes generated during its operations and there is nowhere for that waste to go. So-called small modular nuclear reactors being proposed now would produce as much or more waste than existing nuclear power plants; still, it remains highly radioactive and deadly for thousands of years. Do you want it near you?

Please respect that vote of the people! Stop House Bill 2215 here and now.  
Thank you.