

Submitter: Susan Haywood

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: HB2215

We are already downriver from the Hanford Site, the most toxic clean-up site in the Western Hemisphere. Don't add more radioactive waste to the Pacific Northwest! There is no federally-licensed repository for high-level nuclear waste. And if there were, where would it be? Would we truck radioactive waste across states, with the risk that entails? In Australia a tiny amount of radioactive material just caused a nation to be on alert.

In 1980 Oregon voted to keep nuclear waste out of our state; now here it is back again because COMMERCIAL forces want to make money on a more expensive form of energy. Renewable sources are faster to build, more efficient, and less dangerous. The only reason we are fighting this again is because corporations want more and more profit at the expense of the common good.

All of us in Oregon have a stake in this state. Our collective investment, our health, and our progeny's health will be adversely affected by building ANY nuclear plants in Oregon. The new, smaller units actually create a bigger risk by producing more radioactive waste than those we have already fought against. The construction of nuclear plants takes from 15-10 years, time we don't have to waste. And the expense of building these plants will take investment away from building solar and wind powered energy generation---energy that costs 7-8 times LESS than nuclear-produced electricity.

Building nuclear plants is an environmental justice issue. Most extraction of uranium comes from Indigenous lands. The storage of nuclear waste occurs in low-income communities and communities of color. Look at the residents closest to the Hanford site---low-income and Indigenous people. The risks Hanford poses are enormous---from radioactive groundwater to pollution of the Columbia River. And the progress in cleaning it up is negligible.

The Pacific NW is prone to earthquakes and soil liquification. A tsunami is predicted in our future. Fukushima showed us what that kind of disaster can do to nuclear power infrastructure. We are aware of the correlation between radiation and human health disorders, from radiation sickness to cancer. Why are we even considering nuclear plants in Oregon?

We have built a state that is attracting green industries and leading the nation in our policies. Let's not stop now! Oppose HB 2215 and keep Oregon from becoming a

nuclear waste dump!