



United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters  
Local 290  
20210 SW Teton Ave.  
Tualatin, OR 97062

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Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Gamba and Levy, and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Paul Elder, and I am here today on behalf of UA Local 290 in support of this measure.

UA supports smart, data-driven decision-making, especially when we are talking about energy infrastructure with long timelines and high stakes.

This bill gives Oregon the opportunity to study advanced nuclear technologies so decisions are based on facts, not assumptions.

From a workforce and industrial perspective, advanced nuclear energy can play an important role in Oregon's future.

It provides reliable, carbon-free baseload power that can complement renewable energy sources.

That reliability is critical for industrial facilities that depend on steady power and that support thousands of family-wage union jobs across the state. Nuclear energy is also highly efficient when compared to other clean energy options.

This technology is not new or untested. The United States military has relied on small modular reactor technology for decades.

The first nuclear-powered submarine was built in 1954, and since then, the technology has been continuously refined to become safer, more efficient, and more reliable.

Other states are already taking these steps. Washington, New York, and Texas are studying or deploying advanced nuclear technologies, and this measure appropriately directs Oregon to review those efforts.

It is an opportune time for our state to begin this work. Internationally, countries like France rely on nuclear for roughly 65 to 70 percent of their electricity, demonstrating how nuclear can provide long-term, low-carbon power at scale.

Just as important, this study evaluates reactor safety and design, human health and environmental impacts, and nuclear waste management.

Waste management options have advanced significantly, and modern reactors can produce far less waste than technologies from the 1980s.

UA supports evaluating modern, advanced technologies using today's safety standards, not outdated assumptions.

This study is a responsible step toward understanding whether nuclear should be part of Oregon's energy future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I urge your support.

In Solidarity,

**W. Paul Elder**

Business Manager FS/T

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