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On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4046

While I appreciate that Legislators want to adopt Nuclear technology due to it's small CO2 footprint and safety, SMR's are not the appropriate solution due to the risk of theft and unproven technologies.

Unfortunately, due to their small size, SMR's must use highly enriched nuclear material. This highly-enriched material can stolen by bad actors to create dirty nuclear bombs. Rather, this committee should investigate Thorium nuclear reactors, of which China has already built one. Thorium is much more abundant than Uranium, and cannot be enriched into a nuclear weapon/dirty bomb. It can also be coupled with new nuclear reactor designs, such as molten salt reactor designs. Compared to light-water reactors which are at much higher risk of explosions (see Fukushima, Five Mile Island) due to the complex management of temperature and water pressure/steam, molten salt reactors will simply drop the nuclear rods into salt chamber to allow the rods to cool, preventing thermal runaway.

Please expand this study to include all modern Nuclear reactor designs and fuels, including Thorium and Molten Salt reactors. Otherwise, we are putting Oregonians, and the country at grave risk from Nuclear pirates, and the high \$/kWh due to the unproven designs. Don't put ratepayers on the hook for R&D when we're already paying out the nose for electricity. The best thing we can do right now for Oregonians is to force the utilities to charge data center/AI companies the residential retail price for electricity. That will slow down the demand, and ensure energy costs do not go sky-high for the rest of us.