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David Sykes, Commission Chair
Jeff Wenholz, Commissioner
August Peterson, Commissioner

April 2, 2025

Oregon State Legislature
House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Levy, and Committee Members:

RE: Support for House Bill 2410 – Umatilla County Small Modular Reactor Demonstration Project.

The Morrow County Board of Commissioners expresses support for House Bill 2410 and requests that you take serious consideration of Umatilla County's proposed small modular reactor (SMR) energy facility demonstration project. The proposed project is an example of taking into consideration evolving technologies to address real power issues while being proactive and mindful to clean energy goals and initiatives.

As you know, HB 2410 potentially authorizes a site certification for an SMR demonstration project in Umatilla County. The proposed 300 MW production facility could serve as a key component towards meeting the energy demands of the community in a responsible manner. Umatilla County is taking the lead on a potential solution that could be used in several other counties throughout Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. A measured demonstration project to track conditions and the capacities of new, safer technologies is essential to address antiquated beliefs about nuclear energy production. Morrow County's continuing growth and burgeoning industrial development requires additional scrutiny on energy solutions that this demonstration project will provide insight on. Our County will be following the project closely with intent and interest.

We appreciate your support on this critical issue and encourage you to vote YES on HB 2410. Umatilla County's project may very well provide the groundwork for reconsidering energy production in our area. We support this initiative as an exploratory option for powering our future.

Sincerely,

David Sykes
Commission Chair

Jeff Wenholz
Commissioner

August Peterson
Commissioner