

Don't Overturn a Citizen Initiative!
Keep the Public's Right to Vote on Nuclear Power in Montana

HB 273 by Rep. Derek Skees would eliminate the current safeguards for nuclear development in Montana. Please help us oppose HB 273 by calling your representative. Help defend the citizen's initiative giving the public the right to vote on nuclear power in Montana.

- In 1978, Montana voters approved Initiative 80, to allow voters the right to approve or reject a proposed nuclear facility. I-80 passed overwhelmingly with 65% of the vote!
- HB 273 would overturn I-80, and eliminate the public's right to vote on a new nuclear facility in the state.
- Repealing I-80 eliminates numerous safeguards for the development of nuclear energy such as the "Annual review of evacuation and emergency medical aid plans."
- Opponents argue that I-80 bans nuclear energy in Montana. That is not true. I-80 merely requires voters to decide. Voters wanted a say in 1978 and deserve that same today.
- During the hearing Rep. Skees said, "the majority of the folks who voted for the initiative did not know what they were voting for. That shouldn't even really be a benchmark. We're not even overturning the will of the people when the people did not know what they were voting for." That is an insult to the voters who voted on the initiative.
- Numerous Montanans campaigned for this initiative. Proponents of the initiative walked door-to-door speaking with. Opponents spent a record amount of money against it. This was a hotly contested issue, and Montanans knew exactly what they were voting for.
- A new era of small modular nuclear reactors (SMRs) are being touted by proponents. While they may prove safe and effective eventually, SMRs are experimental and aren't scheduled to go online in the U.S. until 2029. It is too risky to gamble Montana's energy future on experimental and potentially dangerous technology.
- There is no storage solution for nuclear waste. SMRs do generate radioactive waste. Current nuclear sites still struggle to dispose of the waste. For example, the Fukushima-Daiichi power plant has run out of room to store dangerous, irradiated water.
- Montana is seismically active. This makes storing nuclear waste even riskier.
- Finally, SJ 3 is moving through the Senate to allow an interim committee to study the issue. It would be premature to eliminate the public vote and important safeguards BEFORE the state conducts a study on any new nuclear technology.

Vote NO on overturning the public's right to vote on nuclear!!