

# THE BREAKTHROUGH

May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017

To: House Committee On Energy and Environment

Re: State Bill 990

My name is Jessica Lovering, and I am the director of the energy program at the Breakthrough Institute, an environmental research organization focused on finding pragmatic solutions to fighting climate change. I am writing in support of SB 990, exempting small modular reactors from siting restrictions that apply to larger, traditional nuclear power plants. As an organization concerned about climate change and a strong economy, the Breakthrough Institute and myself support the deployment of advanced nuclear designs like NuScale's small modular reactor.

As Oregon seeks to expand renewable energy generation to fifty percent by 2040, these intermittent sources of power need reliable back-up. Nuclear can make the perfect partner to growing renewable energy, as it is both reliable and low-carbon. Small, modular reactors in particular are well suited to load-following with variable renewables like wind and solar.

Oregon is still very dependent on coal for electricity production. While coal has been on the decline nationwide due to low natural gas prices, allowing for small-scale nuclear in the state could offer a replacement for coal that is low-carbon while also providing long-term, high-paying jobs.

Nuclear power plants also take up significantly less land than other low-carbon sources of electricity: utility-scale solar, wind, and hydro-electric. This high-density allows more room for nature to thrive, while still providing thousands of high-paying jobs and tax revenue for the local community. Small modular reactors are quite different from the old nuclear of the 1970s, and I encourage the committee to think differently about their potential positive role in an aggressive clean energy agenda.

Sincerely,



Jessica Lovering  
Director of Energy