

Chair Beyer, Vice-Chair Findley, and members of the Senate Committee on Energy & Environment

I am opposed to any and all proposed legislation to weaken Oregon's common-sense restrictions on siting new nuclear power plants. I urge you to reject Senate Bill 360 and any other legislation that would accomplish its goals.

Senate Bill 360 would exempt small modular nuclear reactors from Oregon's rules that require statewide voter approval and a federally-approved nuclear waste repository before a new nuclear power reactor can be sited and built in the state of Oregon. This bill represents a special interest carveout for NuScale Power, which has received millions of dollars in federal subsidies, moved back its estimated completion date for its first pilot project in Idaho from 2015 to 2029, and increased in cost from \$3 billion to \$6.1 billion in the last five years.

Senate Bill 360 would allow small modular nuclear reactors to be sited in cities and counties with no cross-county emergency planning zone. It has been 10 years since the Fukushima nuclear disaster, which forced 150,000 people to evacuate their homes and has caused continued radioactive contamination of 1.5 million people's homes in the Fukushima Prefecture at levels that are unsafe for children and pregnant mothers. Other nuclear disasters such as the event at Chernobyl have made it clear that even a single Oregon county is an unacceptably small emergency planning zone for the scale of nuclear disasters.

NuScale claims that a smaller reactor would be safer than a conventional large nuclear reactor and would produce less radioactive waste. These are both disingenuous claims because NuScale plans to stack up to 12 of its modular nuclear reactors at a single site, and their technology would produce slightly more radioactive waste per kilowatt-hour of electricity generated than a conventional nuclear reactor. Every nuclear reactor disaster in the history of the world has occurred amid glowing claims of safety and infallibility. We have, sadly, seen this to be untrue since errors occurred in the case of Chernobyl and poor upkeep of machinery in the case of Fukushima.

NuScale also claims that its technology is a vital piece of the carbon-free landscape of technologies needed to address the global climate crisis and drive down the greenhouse gas emissions. The exorbitant and rising cost projections and federal regulatory hurdles facing new nuclear power confirm that new nuclear power reactors cannot credibly be considered a tool in the decarbonization toolbox. Furthermore, the greenhouse gas emissions footprint of uranium mining, transport, and long-term storage of nuclear waste make nuclear power one of the most carbon-intensive forms of non-fossil-fuel-based energy sources.

The U.S. nuclear industry has disproportionately harmed indigenous peoples since day one of the Manhattan project. The legacy of uranium mining continues to harm Tribes from the Spokane Tribe to the Navajo Nation and beyond. At a time when the Oregon legislature is considering a wide range of policies to advance environmental justice, considering expanding nuclear power is contrary to indigenous rights and environmental justice.

Please reject Senate Bill 360 and reject additional public hearings for exemptions from Oregon's common sense limits on the siting of new nuclear power reactors.

Sincerely,

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