

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

I am writing to express my opposition to 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.

When my children were young I spent many years in opposition to large scale nuclear plants feeling that they were a threat to their health and safety. Small modular nuclear reactors are still nuclear reactors. They would produce the same radioactive waste as conventional nuclear reactors. I now have grand children and am concerned for their health and safety. NuScale plans to stack up to 12 of its modular nuclear reactors at a single site, therefore their technology would produce slightly more radioactive waste per kilowatt-hour of electricity generated than a conventional nuclear reactor. Waste from the decommissioned Trojan Nuclear Plant in Rainier, OR still sits in casks awaiting permanent safe storage. The U.S. continues to lack a viable permanent solution for radioactive waste.

March 11th, 2021 was the 10-year anniversary of the Fukushima nuclear power disaster in Japan. Communities from Hanford to Three Mile Island, to Fukushima, and Chernobyl have been told that nuclear technology is safe and that accidents posed little threat to public health and safety. In every case we have learned that radiation exposure and its health impacts were far more severe than reactor operators and the government have disclosed.

Small nuclear reactors are not the answer to our climate crisis. 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. Oregonians want clean energy from wind, solar and geothermal energy. Please reject Senate Bill 360.

Respectfully,

Catherine Spofford