

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

I am writing to express my opposition 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.

You will hear NuScale claim 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 from our electricity sector. 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!

A little-discussed problem is the ignorant and disrespectful treatment of the very land, air and water that sustains us all. Mining--any mining--but particularly Uranium mining, has had lethal effect on Tribes on whose land these mines are always situated. No one thinks of the unconscionable, deadly effect the "man camps" have on all the surrounding communities, but especially the Native communities, where the "men" who are hired to work on building infrastructure rape, murder and torture and sex traffic young women. You need to be reminded of this. The women are our sisters, our daughters, our mothers, cousins and aunties. If you allow the uranium mines by allowing nuclear plants, their blood is on your hands.

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, we must not humor a conversation about expanding the nuclear power sector.

Please reject Senate Bill 360 and do not entertain additional public hearings for exemptions from Oregon's common sense limits on the siting of new nuclear power reactors.

Sincerely,