

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

I am in no way an expert on nuclear energy but I read in a document of the Union of Concerned Scientists and independent group of prominent scientists this "SMR proponents frequently claim that, like the next generation of large reactors, the probability of reactor core damage can be lower for SMRs than for currently operating reactors. Although true, it is important to note that such claims refer to frequencies of internal events such as pipe breaks. When external events such as earthquakes, floods, and fires are added to a probabilistic risk assessment, however, the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)—the policy organization of the nuclear industry—has pointed out that, "the calculated risk metrics for new reactors are likely to increase and therefore be closer to current plants than being portrayed today". I think we all have seen in the last few years that floods, earthquakes, forrest fires etc are all becoming much more common. We desperately need new technologies to reduce carbon emissions but trading our reliance on coal and fracked gas for another dangerous costly fuel is not going to help.