

Testimony in opposition to SB360  
March 23, 2021  
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Before you for consideration here is a bill that has repeatedly been introduced in past sessions and I very much regret that it is given a hearing once more, using valuable time that might be applied to other pending legislation. SB 360 is a blatant attempt to circumvent a) a bill passed in 1980 (by initiative) to regulate nuclear power and b) to subvert the existing process in Oregon for making siting decisions. There is no good reason for either.

The nuclear industry has its origin in the guilt over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, attempting to reframe the horrific bombing of cities and civilians into the new found value of the "peaceful atom". The marketing of reactors dropped "atomic" quickly from its vocabulary in favor of the sanitized "nuclear" and went into overdrive with sloganeering on safety and cost: Come play in our nuclear park, energy will be too cheap to meter are dated now and have proven false. All the while, the industry lobbied Congress for limits on its liability and the Price-Anderson Act does just that. The less visible -and laughable- safety measure imposed by NRC concerns evacuation in event of accident and is but a sop that hides the reality of a sacrifice zone,

The newest incarnation of dressing up this industry for respectability takes advantage of the climate crisis, labeling it shamefully "carbon-free". Of course, there is zero mention of the end of the fuel cycle and the toxicity of radioactive waste, nor the unimaginable time frame for safeguarding the "hot" fuel rods which are mainly held under water, on site, and as we know from our very own experience with the Trojan atomic power plant, the rods remain even when its cooling tower has been leveled by dynamite and its radioactive core shipped to Hanford.

Nuclear power is a fatally flawed method for generating electricity. It has no place in a repertoire of sustainable, clean, safe power generation as we design a carbon neutral way of life and move forward to transition to a mix of available, proven energy measures and technologies.

This bill would allow local jurisdictions to grant permits for modular reactors and their cooling ponds. I ask you, do we REALLY want radioactive waste ponds dotting the Oregon landscape? Is this not a considerable security risk, aside from the toxicity and long term costs? And, aren't there already enough Superfund sites as legacy of an industrial policy that freely allowed pollution of a of air and water shifting the burdens of toxic waste?

This bill is a frivolous waste of your time.  
I urge you to reject SB 360.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.  
Inga Fisher Williams