

Chair Bayer, 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.

Small modular nuclear reactors are still nuclear reactors, and would produce the same radioactive waste as conventional nuclear reactors. Orphaned waste from the decommissioned Trojan Nuclear Plant in Rainier, OR still sits in casks awaiting permanent safe storage. While the U.S. continues to lack a viable permanent solution for radioactive waste, we must uphold existing health-protective, common sense law protecting from radioactive waste.

The whole life-cycle of the nuclear industry is an environmental injustice, especially to indigenous peoples: from mining, processing, and manufacture of nuclear fuel to transportation, use, cooling, and storage of nuclear waste. The health impacts of this industry have disproportionately fallen upon indigenous peoples, such as the Navajo Nation where the vast majority of the more than 520 abandoned uranium mines have not been cleaned up or environmentally contained. 17 of these mines are 200 feet or less from an occupied residence.

This bill represents a special interest carveout for NuScale Power, which has received millions of dollars in federal subsidies. Senate Bill 360 would allow small modular nuclear reactors to be sited in cities and counties with no cross-county emergency planning zone. This month was 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. The evidence from prior nuclear disasters including the one at Chernobyl has made it clear that a single Oregon county is an unacceptably small emergency planning zone for the scale of nuclear disasters.

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.