

I implore you to reject SB 360. This bill seeks to undermine the public health and democratic aims of Ballot Measure 7. Ballot Measure 7 was passed in 1980 to protect Oregonians and embodies the precautionary principle to prevent any further nuclear harms before they happen. Measure 7 has kept Oregonians safer from risky nuclear accidents and pollution, which are not contained by boundaries between cities, counties, states, regions or even countries. Unfortunately, nuclear waste still sits menacingly at the Trojan nuclear power plant site.

Oregonians are being told by SB 360 to not see what is right before us: Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) generate new problems. These include long lived radiological pollutants that create extremely complex contamination issues for future generations to solve. The problems presented by nuclear power that sparked Measure 7 are still not any closer to being solved by SMRs. Please learn more about these concerns in M.V. Ramana's report (<https://www.oregonpsr.org/report-uamps-nuscale-smrs>) and <http://oregonpeaceworks.org/nuclear-power/>. Just some of the intractable problems presented by SMRs include nuclear waste, accidents, contamination events, uneconomical costs and nuclear weapons proliferation issues.

We need public control over energy systems that do not concentrate power in few hands but are just and fair in the present and for future generations. In light of the climate crisis, invisible radiation might seem to some an acceptable risk. Conversation about nuclear power for those exposed, however, is not really a question of risk, but one of human and intergenerational harm.

The suffering of radiation exposed communities, including those in Oregon near Hanford Nuclear Reservation and along the Columbia, and near former mining sites, continues to be unrecognized and ignored. This is true even by medical professionals, who are not trained to understand many of these illnesses. This creates additional suffering, living and dying with illness, cancers, disease, decreased immunity and genetic effects in their descendants from radiation exposures.

The nuclear industry continues to fail to meet basic human needs for safety from pollution. Nuclear power presents draconian ways to generate electricity that primarily rely on the subjugation of others, particularly where uranium is mined and milled or where nuclear plants and storage facilities are located. On the Navajo Nation where 20-25% of the uranium was mined for the US nuclear supply, they experienced the highest rates of loss of life due to COVID. Radiation exposure lowers immunity and they have been disproportionately harmed. On an economic level, the uranium obtained from their lands was not a fair exchange. Not only are there ongoing, massive and overwhelming issues of contamination and health problems from uranium mining, but the benefits did not even provide infrastructure for needed clean water supplies.

The problem of SMRs and the reliance on unsafe and untried new technologies for electrical power generation connects racism with radiation exposure as a public health crisis. These often-invisible oppressions prop up the nuclear industry. The history of creating radiation health safety standards are a story of unethical studies that victimized radiation exposed and vulnerable groups including, but not limited to, Hiroshima and Nagasaki survivors, uranium miners, Marshallese Islanders, cancer patients and others without their knowledge or consent. Why should we ever trust the nuclear industry's definition of what safe even is?

SB 360 attempts to diminish the visceral knowledge we already have of the intense harm nuclear power has already caused and denies the legacy of intractable pollution being left to future generations. We must make wiser and more just choices for the future. We are at a pivotal point in the road of energy, justice and infrastructure development. We will not get second chances to get it right.