

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

I write to express my opposition to any and all proposed legislation to weaken Oregon's restrictions on siting new nuclear power plants. I urge you to reject Senate Bill 360 and all other legislation that accomplishes such goals.

Senate Bill 360 exempts small modular nuclear reactors from Oregon's rules requiring statewide voter approval as well as a federally-approved nuclear waste repository before a new nuclear power reactor can be sited and built in the state of Oregon. This bill is a special interest carve-out for NuScale Power, which has received millions of dollars in federal subsidies, moved back the 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.

Senate Bill 360 allows small modular nuclear reactors to be sited in cities and counties with no cross-county emergency planning zone. March 2021 marked the 10-year anniversary of the Fukushima nuclear disaster, which forced 150,000 people to evacuate their homes, causing continued radioactive contamination of 1.5 million people's homes in the Fukushima Prefecture at levels unsafe for children and pregnant mothers. Evidence from prior nuclear disasters, including one at Chernobyl, makes clear that a single Oregon county is unacceptable, being too small to serve as an emergency planning zone given the scale of nuclear disasters.

NuScale disingenuously claims a smaller reactor is safer than a conventional large nuclear reactor and produces less radioactive waste. These claims are misleading because NuScale plans to place up to 12 of its modular nuclear reactors at a single site, producing slightly more radioactive waste per kilowatt-hour of electricity generated than by a conventional nuclear reactor. Furthermore, every nuclear reactor disaster in world history occurred amid sweeping claims of safety and infallibility only to be thwarted by unforeseen errors in the case of Chernobyl and poor upkeep of machinery in the case of Fukushima.

NuScale insincerely claims its technology is vital to address the global climate crisis and drive down the greenhouse gas emissions from our electricity sector. The exorbitant and rising cost projections and federal regulatory hurdles facing new nuclear power mean that new nuclear power reactors cannot credibly be considered a tool in the decarbonization toolbox. Furthermore, 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.

The United States 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, expanding the nuclear power sector is not an option.

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

With gratitude,  
Larry Sipe