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On Behalf Of: Alliance for Democracy  
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Measure: HB2215

Voters in Oregon have already spoken on the issue of siting nuclear facilities in Oregon in 1980. The requirements for approval of new commercial nuclear facilities in Oregon are very clear and straight forward, designed to protect Oregonians from the health and environmental dangers posed by nuclear energy. Those requirements are that there be a federally licensed nuclear waste disposal site and that the citizens of Oregon have voted in favor of allowing any particular commercial nuclear facility.

This law has served Oregon well, safe guarding them. And saving Oregonian from investing in expensive and unproven technology.

But now OSU has developed a new product, Small Module Nuclear Reactors and they and their corporate supporters (NuScale) who would profit from building these so-called small nuclear reactors, want to overturn the people's democratically enacted law.

Oregon should invest funds in proven renewable energy sources, like retrofitting residences and commercial buildings to be energy saving as well as investing in solar, wind and wave technologies to produce truly clean renewable energy sources. Gambling on unproven, and expensive, energy sources, like Small Nuclear Reactors, does not make sense. Not a single small scale nuclear reactor has even been built yet, so it is unproven technology at this point and although being promoted as much cheaper than a full-blown nuclear plant, we know that nuclear always has high cost overruns, so we should not believe the hype about it being much cheaper. What we know are cheaper are wind and solar renewable energy.

This bill's summary tells the whole story of why it should not be approved. The summary states that it "Removes requirement that adequate repository for terminal disposition of high-level radioactive waste be licensed as precondition for issuance of site certificate for nuclear-fueled thermal power plant." And it goes on, it "Removes requirement that proposed site certificate for nuclear-fueled thermal power plant be submitted to electors of this for approval or rejection."

This bill is undemocratic and overturns the well known opposition to the building of nuclear facilities in Oregon. Oregonians should not have to say it again – no nuclear facilities in Oregon until there is a federal nuclear waste depository and unless Oregon voters in a state wide vote approve of such facilities.