

Dear Senate Committee on Energy & Environment,

As a member of Physicians for Social responsibility, I urge you to vote NO on SB360.

The urgency of the climate crisis demands smarter investments in tried-and-true renewable power technologies with battery backup which are reliable, cost-effective, and ready to be built. This doesn't apply to the nuclear power design firm, NuScale Power, which was supposed to deliver its first working small modular nuclear reactor by 2015. After multiple delays, NuScale is now forecasting its Idaho pilot project with Utah Municipal Associated Power Systems (UAMPS) to begin generating power in 2029! In the last 5 years, estimated construction cost of NuScale's project has jumped from \$3 billion to \$6.1 billion--similar to cost overruns and bankruptcies in the nuclear power sector.

Nuclear power is not a climate solution: it has a large greenhouse gas footprint, it is slow to build, & it is not cost effective. Storing waste, building reactors, and transporting fuel all have a substantial carbon footprint. Investments would be far more wisely spent on proven and cost-effective emissions-free technologies like wind, solar, and geothermal power.

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. Small modular nuclear reactors are still nuclear reactors, and would produce the same radioactive waste as conventional nuclear reactors

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. The whole life-cycle of the nuclear industry is one of environmental injustice, especially to indigenous peoples: in mining, processing, and manufacture of nuclear fuel, as well as transportation, use, cooling, and storage of nuclear waste.

Please veto this bill/request--AGAIN!

Thank you for your attention.
Dr Virginia Feldman MD, FAAP
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