

Testimony by Joyce Follingstad, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist
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I am here today to testify regarding SB 360. I fiercely object to the effort of SB360 to exempt small modular nuclear reactors from the ballot measure law passed by Oregon voters in 1980 that prohibits the construction of nuclear power plants in Oregon unless there is a federally licensed repository for the disposal of the high-level radioactive waste, and unless such a nuclear power plant be approved by a statewide election of Oregon voters.

Every step of the production of nuclear power, from the mining of the uranium to the transport of the ore to be processed for use in a nuclear facility, to the movement of the nuclear wastes for storage, creates opportunities for more radioactive materials to contaminate our environment, poison our soil and water and injure our people for thousands of years to come.

We already have over 15,000 abandoned uranium mines in our country, amounting to nuclear colonization and the disposition of many of our indigenous lands. Thus, our native citizens, even newborns show high levels of radioactivity in their bodies.

Nuclear power causes cancer by exposure to known radioactive carcinogens. Radiation levels are already too high. As a result, cancers across our nation have multiplied so that one of every two men and one of every three women will get cancer in their lifetimes. Adding more nuclear material through the building of small nuclear modules, especially with no permanent, licensed depository, gives us a health burden that is too great to bear. In addition, small modular plants create additional targets for domestic terrorism, one of the greatest threats facing our future generations.

I say no to allowing small modular nuclear plants to be exempted from our 1980 citizen approved bill that states that Oregon residents do not want nuclear power in our state. NuScale's reactor design has not yet been licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. We are preparing for a 9.0 earthquake in Oregon and nuclear power in Oregon could endanger thousands of people. We are unable to insure our homes or bodies in the case of a nuclear accident. The NuScale model proposes more nuclear material in an increasingly decentralized manner, putting us all at risk for nuclear contamination.

We know from Chernobyl and Fukushima that nuclear accidents severely harm people. We citizens of Oregon rely on our representatives to have our best interests at heart. Please represent the will of the people and say no to SB360.