

March 23, 2021

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

I strongly oppose Senate Bill 360 and any associated bills which would facilitate the development of dangerous nuclear power in Oregon and throughout the US. If passed and implemented, this bill would result in both fiscal and public health disasters.

Senate Bill 360 would allow modular nuclear reactors to be stacked together and sited in cities and counties with no cross-county emergency planning zone. The evidence from prior nuclear disasters from Fukushima and Chernobyl has made it clear that a single Oregon county is an unacceptably small emergency planning zone for the scale of nuclear disasters.

SB 360 is a special interest bill for NuScale Power, which has received millions of dollars in federal taxpayer subsidies for its pilot project in Idaho from 2015 to 2029, and increased in cost from \$3 billion to \$6.1 billion in the last five years.

The ridiculous 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. Additionally, 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.

Furthermore, the U.S. nuclear industry has disproportionately harmed indigenous peoples. The legacy of uranium mining continues to harm Tribes from the Spokane Tribe to the Navajo Nation and beyond. We must do no further harm.

Please reject Senate Bill 360 and do not hold additional public hearings for this or any other legislation which would facilitate exemptions from Oregon's current, common sense limits on the siting of new nuclear power reactors.

Thank you for consideration of these comments,

Regna Merritt, PA - retired
Advisory Committee member, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility