

Submitter: Larry Sipe

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB635

Dear Senate Committee on Energy & Environment:

I respectfully request you OPPOSE SB635.

One) Small Modular Nuclear Reactors are an unproven technology. None have been built in the U.S. The only three operating worldwide, two in China and one in Russia, are underperforming. Two) Nuclear power is not clean energy. From uranium mining and milling that decimates Indigenous land to nuclear waste that has no safe, permanent repository, nuclear power is a dirty and outdated technology that has no place in a just transition to a clean energy future. Three) Nuclear power is “the most expensive way to boil water.” Studies show it is at least five times the cost of renewable energy. Building nuclear reactors are notorious for astronomical cost overruns and delays. These costs are typically borne by ratepayers. Four) Baseload is an outdated concept. With new grid and storage technologies, we don’t need “firm” or “baseload” power like coal and nuclear. Five) Tech company hype is a distraction: new small modular nuclear reactors would not come online for at least 10 to 15 years—meanwhile, tech companies’ voracious energy appetite to power their data centers and AI will continue to use dirty fossil fuels and displace renewable energy required for basic needs.

Bottom Line: New nuclear reactors divert funding from energy efficiency, renewable energy, and storage technologies that are safer, less expensive, and faster to deploy. Don’t fall for a false solution. Keep Oregon Nuclear-Free.

I implore you OPPOSE SB635.

With gratitude,
Larry Sipe
Salem, Oregon