

Submitter: Peter Bergel
On Behalf Of: Oregon PeaceWorks
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB635

Testimony of Peter Bergel on SB 635

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Smith and Members of the Committee:

My name is Peter Bergel. I live in Salem. In 1980 I was co-author and Campaign Director of Ballot Measure 7.

I appreciate that this bill calls for an investigation into both the advantages and disadvantages of nuclear power. However, it assigns this investigation to an institution that has a vested interest in the conclusions that study would come to. Oregon State University birthed the NuScale Company, an outfit that seeks to produce Small Modular Nuclear Reactors (SMNRs), such as the one being proposed for Umatilla County. It further owns an interest in that company. Making OSU the author of such a study is a clear case of the fox guarding the hen house.

Since the bill enumerates many items that are to be included in the study, and many of them may be reasons to promote nuclear power, I suggest that the following topics also be added to the list by amendment.

- How soon can SMNRs realistically be brought online and at what cost?
- How expensive and how destructive have nuclear accidents been?
- How well, or how poorly, have the Small Modular Nuclear Reactors in Russia and China - the only ones currently operating on the planet – been performing?
- Why did the UAMPS consortium withdraw from its deal with NuScale to build an SMNR?
- How much water would SMNRs use and where would it come from?
- Since nuclear power releases radiation at every step of its cycle, what are the health effects of these radiation releases?
- How does providing uranium for nuclear power affect the populations near uranium mines?
- How often has this industry lied to the public and the government over the past 70 years?
- How well has the oversight of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) protected public health and welfare?
- What will be the effect of the Trump administration's emasculation of the NRC on public health and welfare?
- Is the need for future power as extensive as predicted?
- Last, but certainly not least, how will the public be protected, essentially forever, from SMNRs' deadly radioactive waste – dangerous for quarter of a million

years?

If you decide to commit scarce taxpayer dollars to a study such as the one this bill proposes, please amend to include investigation of at least these issues.

My preference, however, would be to ask you to vote no on SB 635.