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Ref: Small Nuclear Reactors; Opposing SB215, SB216, SB635

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Chair Senator Sollman

Co-chair Senator Brock Smith

Members: Senators Golden, Pham and Robinson

### **Nuclear Energy is Old-Hat**

All nuclear reactors of any shape or size are old-hat sources of energy that are dying out.

SMRs, while smaller, are still dinosaurs that poop out nuclear waste no matter their size and shape. This is nuclear waste that the human species has not yet found a way to store or treat safely. To foist such an outdated source of energy onto the state of Oregon dooms whatever location these SMRs are placed. They leave a toxic mess behind.

The Oregon legislature needs to pull back and look at what is driving this sudden push. For several decades, various entities connected to OSU have been touting this form of energy because it was developed by "our own OSU." But not all ideas developed over there are good ones. OSU clearly has a conflict of interest should the legislature vote to let OSU "study" the idea of Small Modular Reactors and nuclear energy.

At this point, SMR's are outdated by new forms of renewable energy—for example Geothermal and CO2 Conversion, if not solar and wind—none of which produce toxic waste. Does anyone need to be reminded of the highly toxic nuclear waste still buried in the 177 tanks left over from the Cold War, now 75 years later(!) toxic waste that is *moving in the environment*, over at Hanford just across the state line? Or the 34 casks of toxic nuclear waste STILL sitting on pads over at Trojan Nuclear power plant in Columbia County

(finally shuttered in 1993) left behind and untreatable, no place to put it safely, no place to treat it safely?

The SMR push is considered a quick fix for energy to power large data centers over in the Eastern part of the state. But this form of energy inevitably haunts the countryside. The SMRs still produce nuclear waste, and the awful truth is that "nuclear waste is like King Midas on steroids, whatever it touches makes more waste....".

Vested interests are trying to snow the unsuspecting public. Trying to push their form of outdated energy.

As for scalability, the cost of these things outweighs what they put out. They are cost ineffective. Public tax dollars subsidize their cost. They are touted as having "siting flexibility" able to be put anywhere. That doesn't make them any less polluting. They require more highly enriched uranium. They are impossible to insure compared to the potential of terrorists blowing up some of these things.

Allowing the so-called "new" nuclear, which is factually an outdated form of old energy, is dooming the state and communities all over the state to deal with the toxic mess they leave behind.

The state needs to look ahead, not backwards.