

March 5, 2025

Chair Sollmon, Vice-Chair Brock

Senators Golden, Pham and Robinson

Re: SB215, SB216, SB635

I stand in opposition to these measures which threaten Oregon's 45 year old ballot measure law that prevents development of nuclear power unless there is a federal repository for nuclear waste and state-wide voter approval. In addition, initial feasibility studies are being directed to OSU, who I do not believe can be impartial in their research. They are the original developer and proponent of NuScale's Small Modular Nuclear Reactor design and therefore have a conflict of interest.

I received news last year that the Umatilla Chemical Depot just completed processing all the chemical weapons waste from WWII. It took 8 decades and untold millions of dollars to responsibly deal with the toxic waste. Oregonians voted 45 years ago to not allow more toxic waste on a scale even more difficult to contain and handle due to the extended half life of uranium isotopes, plutonium and thorium. These byproducts pose dangers due to radioactive emissions, chemical toxicity, long-lived waste and potential for accidents and misuse.

This does not even address the fact, that nuclear power plants require enormous taxpayer subsidies for construction, operation and decommissioning. They take decades to build and cannot provide a timely solution to our climate emergency. The nuclear fuel cycle-mining, milling, processing, transporting, constructing, reacting, and disposing of waste-is neither clean nor sustainable.

I respectfully submit my opposition to these bills which override the will of Oregonians who spoke clearly 45 years ago.

Cheryl Ford