



CLEAN WATER. HEALTHY RIVERS.

March 5, 2025

To: Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Re: Oppose SB 635

Chair Sollman, Vice Chair Brock Smith and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Kelly Campbell and I am the Policy Director for Columbia Riverkeeper. Columbia Riverkeeper is a 25 year old organization with a mission to protect and restore the water quality of the Columbia River from the headwaters to the ocean and all life connected to it. We represent more than 25,000 members and supporters in Oregon.

Columbia Riverkeeper was founded on concerns around the Hanford nuclear cleanup site on the banks of the Columbia River, the largest, most toxic and radioactive nuclear cleanup site in the Western Hemisphere. While some treat Hanford as a sacrifice zone, we view Hanford as a place that matters and advocate for thorough Hanford cleanup. For years we have been looking into the various schemes to build Small Modular Nuclear Reactors (SMNRs) at Hanford<sup>1</sup>. We believe the focus should be on cleanup, not adding more sources of nuclear waste near the Columbia River, on the Washington side or the Oregon side.

We have a few concerns about SB 635 which would direct Oregon State University to study nuclear power.

1. The bill does not mention nuclear waste at all, even though there is no permanent waste repository in the U.S. Nuclear waste is so dangerous that it must be isolated from people and the environment for hundreds of thousands of years. Any study of nuclear power should address the waste issue.
2. While the bill mentions stakeholder engagement, it does not specify Tribal consultation.
3. Oregon State University is not an impartial institution as they have a close relationship with NuScale, a small modular nuclear reactor company. Not only was NuScale a spin off

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.columbiariverkeeper.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/2021.9.14-FINAL-SMR-Report.pdf>

HOOD RIVER OFFICE  
P.O. Box 950  
Hood River, OR 97031  
(541) 387-3030

PORTLAND OFFICE  
1125 SE Madison St, 103A  
Portland, OR 97214  
(503) 432-8927

**COLUMBIA RIVERKEEPER®**

from OSU, OSU is an investor in NuScale, and OSU has a “NuScale Energy Exploration Center” as part of the university<sup>2</sup>.

4. Many studies on various aspects of nuclear power have already been completed, so it is unclear why this study is necessary.

For these reasons, we urge you to not advance SB 635.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly Campbell".

Kelly Campbell, Policy Director

---

<sup>2</sup> <https://news.oregonstate.edu/news/nuscale-energy-exploration-center-opens-oregon-state-university>