

March 6, 2025

To: Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Re: Oppose SB 635

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

I am writing in opposition to SB 635.

The scope of the study required by the bill is incomplete and not balanced. It doesn't include studying the safety issues surrounding nuclear fuel and waste disposal, nor Tribal input. The bill also calls for a study in isolation of all other sources of energy, which is very self-serving and doesn't help Oregonians use their tax dollars wisely by looking at the pros and cons of all alternatives. Finally, Oregon State University is not an impartial party, as they are a known proponent and investor in NuScale.

SB6356 would also waste taxpayers' money in a time when we face a huge decrease in Federal funding for essential services. Oregon Department of Energy has already spent tax dollars to study energy alternatives that make sense for Oregonians and our future needs. In 2023, the legislature passed HB 3630, which charges ODOE to develop an Oregon Energy Strategy and report on their findings by November 1, 2025. This project, which was designed and implemented to include input from numerous groups and experts from all around Oregon, has been working in an unbiased, inclusive, thorough way. Let's wait to hear from ODOE this coming fall when their report is due.

Please do not advance SB 635.

Thank you.

Sarah Chaney