Submitter:	Linda Marie Richards
On Behalf Of:	
Committee:	Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SB635

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,
I am Dr. Linda M. Richards and I live in Corvallis, Oregon.
OSU is a proud patent holder and investor in SMNR technologies, components and in the success of NuScale Power. OSU cannot be a fair judge of the benefits and consequences of nuclear power with such a clear conflict of interest. You can see this easily in this excerpt from this 2020 news article:

“NuScale Energy Exploration Center opens at Oregon State University, Nov. 17, 2020
CORVALLIS, Ore. – The world’s first NuScale Energy Exploration Center officially opens today at Oregon State University. The E2 Center is a collaborative learning environment illustrating the shared commitment to research, education and public engagement shown by NuScale and Oregon State during a partnership that has stretched over 20 years, said
José Reyes(Link is external), the company’s chief technical officer and OSU professor emeritus.“As a co-founder of NuScale Power, I can attest to the enduring power of our partnership with OSU and the spirit of innovation that has driven our collective success to date,” said Reyes, an Oregon State faculty member for three decades. “NuScale is extremely proud to open the E2 Center, and it is our hope that this learning center will foster collaborative problem-solving and creative solutions that inspire future energy pioneers for generations to come.”

The E2 Center offers a hands-on learning opportunity to apply nuclear science and engineering principles through simulated, real-world nuclear power plant operation scenarios, said Reyes. The center employs state-of-the-art computer modeling within a simulator of a NuScale small modular reactor power plant control room, allowing users to take on the role of control room operator at a 12-unit plant.

Reyes, who retired from Oregon State in December 2017, ran OSU’s nuclear engineering and radiation health physics program from 2005 to 2010 and directed the Advanced Thermal Hydraulic Research Laboratory(Link is external) at Oregon State.

Housed at OSU’s Radiation Center, the E2 Center will provide students, researchers, operators and members of the public a better understanding of small modular reactor technology, Reyes said. NuScale was the first company to receive SMR design approval(Link is external) from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the reactors are scheduled to be ready for commercialization by 2027.

“From the start, OSU has been the strongest partner and supporter of NuScale,” said Scott Ashford, Kearney Dean of the Oregon State College of Engineering. “Our School of Nuclear Science and Engineering is committed to the NuScale innovation and development, leading small modular reactor research and education around the world.”
NuScale has simplified reactor design to make them safer(Link is external) than conventional, large reactors – getting rid of pumps, valves and other parts while building in safeguards in an attempt to make the reactors impervious to meltdown.

NuScale plans to fabricate its reactors in a factory rather than assembling them at a plant construction site, a move designed to cut costs enough to compete with other types of energy generation.

The reactor’s trademarked power module can generate 60 megawatts of electricity – compared to 1 gigawatt for a typical commercial reactor – with a “safer, smaller and scalable version of pressurized water reactor technology,” the company’s website says."

This bill also excludes study of many of public health concerns of nuclear power, including that women and girls are much more susceptible to radiation harm than male bodies. Safety regulations for radiation exposure and nuclear pollution are based on incomplete and gender biased science. Oregon legislators should oppose this bill and protect public health. Thank you