

Submitter: Jaelle Dragomir  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB635  
March 10, 2025

Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Members of the Oregon State Legislature,

I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the potential development of nuclear power facilities in Oregon. While I understand that nuclear power is often presented as a low-carbon energy source, the risks and consequences associated with it are simply too great to ignore.

First and foremost, the environmental dangers associated with nuclear energy are profound. The storage of nuclear waste, which remains hazardous for thousands of years, poses a serious and unresolved challenge. The state of Washington's Hanford Nuclear Reactor is just one such example of the environmental issues. A mass tort lawsuit was brought by two thousand Hanford downwinders.[200] In 2005 two of six plaintiffs who went to trial were awarded \$500,000 in damages.[241] The DOE resolved the final cases in October 2015, paying out more than \$60 million in legal fees and \$7 million in damages.[200]. Today, the damages would be much higher. The possibility of a nuclear accident presents catastrophic consequences. The history of nuclear accidents, from Chernobyl to Fukushima to Hanford, has demonstrated that the potential for human error, natural disasters, and unforeseen technical failures could result in the contamination of large areas, displacing thousands of people and causing irreparable damage to the environment. The health impacts of radiation exposure cannot be overstated, and we must take a long, hard look at whether this is a risk worth taking for a power source that only partially addresses our energy needs.

Additionally, nuclear power is an expensive and inefficient way to generate electricity. The construction and maintenance of nuclear power plants require vast amounts of capital investment, and the long timelines for development leave us vulnerable to cost overruns and delays. The funds allocated to nuclear power could be better spent investing in renewable energy sources like wind, solar, and hydropower. These sources are not only sustainable but also abundant in Oregon, making them the logical choice for our energy future.

I firmly believe that Oregon should remain a leader in clean energy innovation, but this leadership should be focused on safe, renewable, and sustainable energy solutions. We have the opportunity to invest in the technologies of the future that will provide jobs, stimulate economic growth, and protect our planet for future generations. Continuing to invest in nuclear power would be a step backward, locking us into outdated and dangerous technology that only serves to maintain the status quo.

I respectfully urge you to reject any proposals for nuclear power development in Oregon. We must continue to move forward with a vision for a clean, renewable energy future that aligns with the values and needs of our state. Our focus should be on technologies that are safe, sustainable, and, most importantly, aligned with the health and well-being of our communities and environment.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue. I hope you will stand with Oregonians in protecting our state from the dangers of nuclear energy.

Sincerely,  
Jaelle Dragomir