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Comments opposing SB215,216,635

Chair Sollman and members of the Senate Energy & Environment Committee

My name is Alan Journet. I retired in 2010 after teaching courses in Ecology, Conservation Biology and Environmental Science at Southeast Missouri State University for 30 years. In 2012, I cofounded and now serve as cofacilitator of Southern Oregon Climate Action Now, which now boasts some 2000 Southern Oregonians who are concerned about the climate crisis and seek action to address it.

I have submitted written testimony previously opposing these bills.

Our Board recently asked me to explore whether nuclear power generation comprised a reasonable climate solution. My research led me to conclude that nuclear proponents argue one or more of three premises to justify their support:

- 1) There isn't sufficient renewable energy to meet demand,
- 2) Nuclear generation is free of greenhouse gas emissions,
- 3) Nuclear generation is safe.

My research led me to conclude that all three premises are false. I have shared this report with the committee in previous submitted testimony (e.g., Journet 2023 for SB215).

First, there **is** sufficient renewable energy although a major problem in the PNW is the transmission grid. However, there are efforts underway to address this problem,

Second full lifecycle assessment of emissions reveals that nuclear is better than fossil fuels but not better than renewable energy.

Third, the single word Zaporizhzhia should answer the safety question. Nuclear plants and nuclear waste are great targets for military and terrorist action. If operational nuclear power is safe on a day-to-day basis, one has to ask why the Nuclear Industry require the Price Anderson Act by which taxpayers indemnify the industry against the cost of a serious accident.

I also learned that Small Modular Nuclear Reactors are not an improvement over conventional reactors and that cost over-runs and time delays are such that no SMR has yet been

demonstrated as commercially viable here. It was interesting to hear Dr. Chris Hansen during the Informational Hearing offering his assessment about the exorbitant cost of nuclear generation and how it is currently unrealistic. Indeed, if we wish to reduce ghg emissions, the nuclear option is the most expensive way to do it in terms of both money and time – and the latter we just don't have. As Senator Brock Smith acknowledged, no reactor would be operational for a decade.

For years we have been targeted with lies from the fossil fuel industry about climate science and fossil fuels – politely called misinformation and disinformation. Now, the nuclear industry is waging the same campaign. It is difficult to engage in a meaningful public conversation about an issue when one side mounts a well-funded campaign of lies. These lies continued during the Public Hearing with the claim that SMRs provide reliable energy when not one is commercially operational in the U.S. We also heard again the lie that nuclear energy production is carbon free when lifecycle analysis clearly denies this claim. It is always unclear as to whether those making such claims are just ignorant or have ulterior motives for promoting nuclear energy with lies.

Bill proponents argue they are just seeking a conversation about nuclear generation in Oregon. Had they introduced one bill referring this to the people, that claim might have been persuasive, but over a dozen bills trying every which way possible to promote nuclear generation, especially Small Modular Nuclear Reactors just gives the game away. This campaign, interestingly and notably, comes straight out of the Project 2025 playbook, a fact which cannot be overlooked.

SOCAN urges complete rejection of the effort to promote nuclear power in Oregon.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Journet". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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Journet A 2023 Climate Action and the Nuclear Conundrum, Southern Oregon Climate Action Now.

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025R1/Downloads/PublicTestimonyDocument/140005>