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On Behalf Of: self
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB635

To the Senate Committee on Energy & Environment-Chair Sollman, Vice Chair Brock Smith, Committee Members Golden, Pham and Robinson,

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opposition to SB 635.

Discussion, deliberation and study is how conscientious people make decisions. I believe in careful study, but does nuclear energy deserve SB 635's call for a "feasibility study"?

Basic facts are in:

Nuclear Power, including SMNRs, carries the thousands-year baggage of harmful high-level radioactive waste—and no place to safely stash it away.

Nuclear power plant construction is always delayed and way over budget.

No SMNRs are operating in the U.S. Oregon should not be the test site for an unproven technology.

In 1980, Oregon voters wisely voted in ORS 469.595 and ORS 469.597 preventing new nuclear power plant construction without an existing, federally licensed high-level radioactive waste repository and statewide voter approval.

SB 635's "feasibility study" is not an appropriate use of time and effort. The "feasibility study" on nuclear power is happening in real time as high level radioactive waste accumulates with no safe storage in sight. The high costs, delays and dangers have been studied for decades and have not been erased with time.

Other Oregon issues demand serious study, for example:

Study how we can contribute to carbon sequestration by protecting and expanding our forests.

Study how Oregon can solve the looming problem of the Critical Energy Infrastructure Hub.

Study and act on the predicted Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake.

Study the feasibility of renewable fuels; are they truly a climate solution?