

# Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility

Dear Anna,



## **Legislative Update:**

### **[SB 1530](#) Healthy Homes - PASSED**

Healthy Homes at \$7.5 million passed with unanimous, bipartisan support! We are delighted to see the funding for Healthy Homes increased so that more Oregonians can have access to safe and healthy homes. This is a huge win in our work to get dangerous gas out of homes and to work towards a fossil fuel free future.

### **[HB 4083A](#) (COAL Act)- PASSED**

directing the Oregon Investment Council and the State Treasurer to make efforts to eliminate investments in coal companies and funds containing coal companies. The bill requires that these divestments must be accomplished without monetary loss to the investment funds. HB 4083 incentivizes emissions reductions, by requiring divestment from such emitters, unless they demonstrate they are transitioning to clean energy within a reasonable timeline.

### **Restore \$1 Million in Funding for Water Equity- PASSED**

This critical funding holds immense significance for Tribes and environmental justice communities in our state who are tirelessly engaged in addressing profound water challenges. The funding is of utmost importance for reinstating essential support to the Just Futures Initiative at the University of Oregon and the Center for Public Service at Portland State University. These institutions hold a pivotal role in ensuring an equitable distribution of funds by disbursing grants for projects centered around clean water access, education, infrastructure, and sanitation. Additionally, these funds will continue to sustain the efforts of the Tribal Water Work Group, a critical platform that guarantees the inclusion of Oregon Tribes' voices in state-level water resource discussions and decision-making processes.

**SB 1560 Early Compassionate Medical Release Task Force: Not Passed**

In partnership with the Oregon Just Resource Alliance and other justice organizations, we worked to push forward SB 1560 a bill that would create an Early Compassionate Medical Release Task Force. We were hopeful that we would see this bill passed, but have experienced increased pushback as we come to the end of the session. This is not the end! We will be working with partners to bring a new bill to session in 2025.

**HB 4044 (Toxic Inhalation Plume study): NOT passed**

HB 4044 would have expanded the research done in Multnomah County that created the *Risks of Earthquake-Induced Hazardous Materials Releases in Multnomah County, Oregon: Two Scenarios Examined* report to the entire state. A report analyzing the potential for toxic inhalation plumes around the state will provide essential information that will inform how the state prepares for the upcoming earthquake.

While HB 4044 did not pass this session it will be introduced again in 2025. Organizers and advocates are optimistic that we will be able to pass the Toxic Inhalation Plume Study next session.

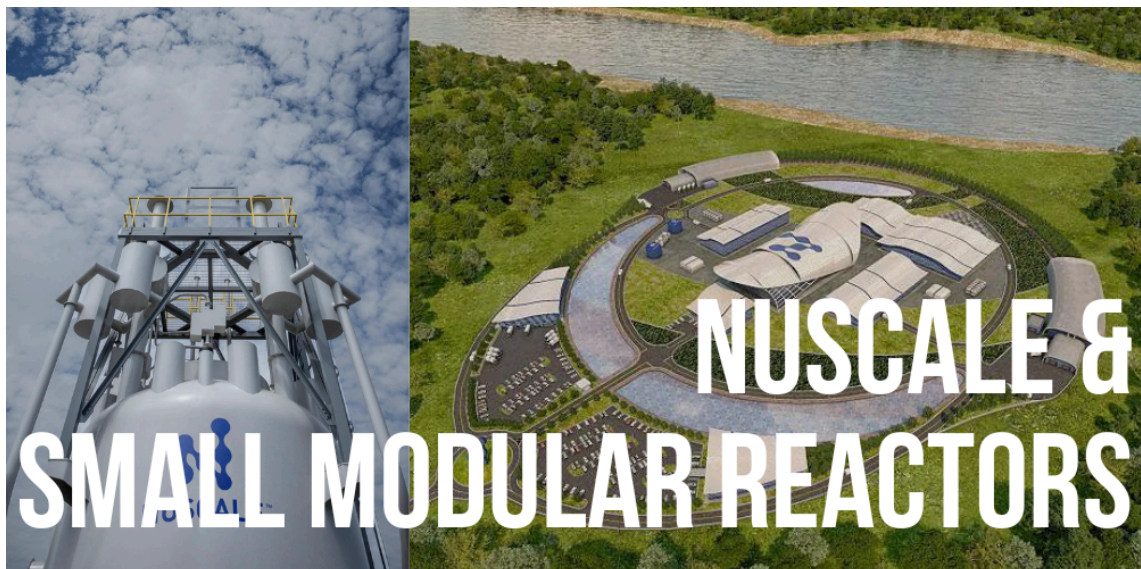


### **New Report! Oregon's Hidden Air Pollution Problem**

Oregon PSR worked with environmental justice partners around the state to release a report highlighting Oregon's hidden air quality problem: Fossil fuels in buildings. We know that burning fossil fuels for heating and water heating creates as much dangerous Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) as the states cement manufacturing and power generation combined. Nitrogen Oxide along with the fine particulate matter (PM2.5), benzene formaldehyde, and carbon monoxide (CO) created from burning gas and propane dirty the air that we breathe both indoors and outside, and increase the risk of health harms like asthma, cardiovascular disease, cancer and premature death.

You can view the entire report [here](#)

Read the Op-Ed [here](#)





## [Small Modular Reactors, NuScale, and the Dangers in Nuclear Power](#)

Nuclear energy dates back to 1945, when the U.S dropped the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The same chemical reactions that killed hundreds of thousands of people were used to develop nuclear reactors to produce domestic electricity starting in 1951. Nuclear disasters at plants in Chernobyl and Fukushima raised concerns around safety regulations and the risk of natural disasters. To gain the financial support of the nuclear industry and the U. S. Department of Energy, small modular reactors swooped in claiming that they'll provide cheap, clean, and safe energy to revitalize and support nuclear investments. In this post, we'll be discussing what small modular reactors are, who is building them in the U.S., and why they are not "cheap, clean, and safe ways to produce energy."

[Learn More](#)

### **Action Items:**



### **CEI Hub:**

Sign the petition to tell decision makers that they must take serious action to protect us from the dangerous CEI Hub. We need urgent action to ensure that when the earthquake hits Portland, our communities remain safe from the toxic fumes and flammable liquids held in these tanks.

Join Oregon PSR in telling the Governor, Oregon Legislators, DEQ Director, Multnomah County Commissioners, Portland City Council, Metro Council, Oregon Federal Delegation that the time to take action is now!

Take Action



**Take action to protect public health and climate in Multnomah County!**

We have an opportunity in Multnomah County to reduce indoor air pollution in our homes and businesses equivalent to removing over 1 million cars from the road. **Our county government can lead the way but only if they hear from you: send them a message now and tell them to act to reduce outdoor pollution coming from inside our homes and businesses.**

Take Action

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