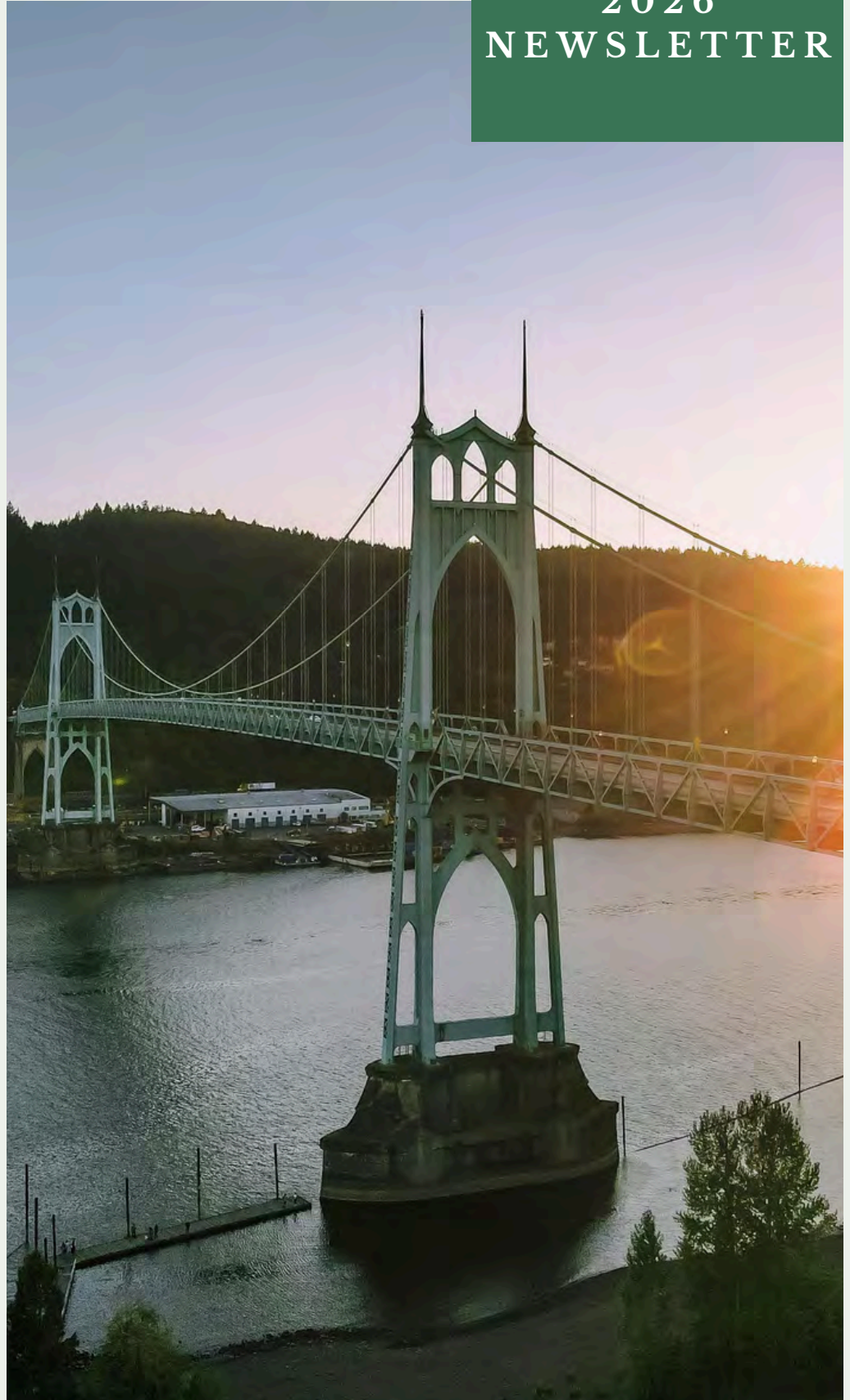


OREGON PSR

PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

*Preventing
what we
cannot cure*

FEBRUARY
2026
NEWSLETTER



OREGON PSR

PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



Dear Josh,

Like many of you, I am eagerly anticipating the end of winter and the beginning of spring. In just a few weeks, the sun will shine longer and flowers will begin to bloom. For me, the changing of seasons is always a reminder of the beauty of Oregon and of our planet.

Our program directors, **Samantha Hernandez** and **Joshua Baker**, have been doing an amazing job for us, especially during this short legislative session. From crafting testimony and strengthening coalitions to working to make polluters pay and fighting to keep Oregon nuclear free, I could not be prouder of the work of these two extraordinary individuals.

This past month had me traveling through the state for speaking engagements, including in Corvallis, Albany, and Eugene. Coming from Washington, DC, it was such a joy to drive through Oregon with its breathtaking scenery, from the coast to the mountains, from the city to the desert, all just a short trip away.

Throughout this month I tuned in to the Winter Olympics and was reminded of a time when US and Russian athletes formed a group, [Athletes United for Peace](#), to educate the public about the dangers of nuclear war. That spirit of using public platforms to advance peace was also embodied by **Jesse Jackson**, whom we lost this month, a giant in the fight for racial equality and nuclear disarmament. I researched his work for my first book and recently published this [piece](#) reflecting on his historic presidential run in 1984, where he urged the country to “choose the human race over the nuclear race”. These examples serve as reminders that we all have the ability to use our skills and circumstances, whatever they may be, to

advance peace and justice. You never know what might be the moment that changes someone's mind.

With **President Trump's** gutting of the EPA, we know our work is far from done. Thank you for showing up, writing letters, providing testimony, donating, and supporting the work we do in so many ways. We are all in this together and cannot do it alone. So, as spring is a time of rejuvenation, we too are renewed and reinvigorated, ready to continue doing all we can to make Oregon a more just and equitable place, with clean air, clean water, and communities that we are truly proud to call home.



Health Professionals: ADD YOUR VOICE!

If you're a credentialed health professional (MD, DO, RN, NP, LCSW, DrPH, etc.), please sign our letter urging elected officials to stop efforts to give Big Oil legal immunity for the harm it has caused. Read the letter and then add your name to stand up for the health of our communities.

Art by [Cleon Peterson](#)

Read the Letter

Sign the Letter

What the Data Says About Living Near Nuclear Plants

As March 11 marks the 15th anniversary of the [Fukushima Daiichi disaster](#), and with parts of Fukushima reopening this month (following weeks of delays after a malfunction just hours into a previous attempt halted the effort earlier this year), new research is reinforcing concerns about the long-term health impacts of nuclear technology.

Photo Credit: Greg Webb / IAEA,
Copyright: [IAEA Imagebank](#)
CC BY-SA 2.0, **Source:** [IAEA](#)



This week researchers at the **Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health** published the first nationwide analysis this century of [cancer mortality and proximity to nuclear power plants](#), examining every U.S. county from 2000–2018. Counties located closer to operating plants experienced higher cancer death rates, when controlling for a variety of plausible alternatives. The researchers estimated roughly **115,000 cancer deaths** nationwide during the study period, about 6,400 each year, were **attributable to proximity to nuclear power plants**.

The findings closely echo a Massachusetts-focused study released three months ago that found [higher cancer incidence among residents living nearer to nuclear facilities](#). That study estimated approximately 20,600 cancer cases in the state, about 3.3% of those analyzed, were attributable to living near a nuclear plant, with a particularly noteworthy effect by those living within 30 kilometers of a nuclear facility.

Taken together, the studies identify a consistent pattern across different populations and different health outcomes. Examining cancer outcomes over decades is very different from a broad nuclear energy policy review of reactor technology, costs, and siting. Communities need **independent research free from industry ties** to understand potential health risks before nuclear development is considered.



HB 4046

HB 4046 directs the Oregon Department of Energy to prepare a broad review of nuclear energy in Oregon, including reactor technologies, costs, and potential deployment pathways. The bill relies on funding being available and would allow the study to be funded by outside sources, specifically naming federal and private funding.

That raises serious concerns.

Private industry, including large technology companies expanding energy-intensive data centers, stands to benefit from new nuclear development. At the same time, the federal government is actively dismantling [environmental](#) oversight and [safety](#) protections in an effort to speed up nuclear development. A study that could shape Oregon's energy future should not depend on funding from entities positioned to profit from expansion or from parties with a vested interest in the development and deployment of nuclear energy.

Oregon law already requires a federally approved permanent high-level radioactive waste storage solution before new reactors can be built, and such a repository still does not exist.

HB 4046 is now in the [Joint Committee on Ways and Means](#).

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Write to Ways and Means co-chairs [Senator Kate Lieber](#) and [Representative Tawna Sanchez](#), and Natural Resources Subcommittee co-chairs [Senator Courtney Neron Misslin](#) and [Representative Emerson Levy](#), and urge them to **oppose HB 4046**. Oregon should not open the door to nuclear development through an outside-funded nuclear-focused study. An energy crunch driven in large part by rapidly expanding Big Tech data centers should not become the rationale for paving the way toward nuclear reactors in our state. Help keep Oregon nuclear-free.

Remembering Castle Bravo: The Lasting Human Cost of Nuclear Testing

March 1 is observed as **Nuclear Victims Remembrance Day** in the Marshall Islands, commemorating the March 1, 1954 U.S. detonation of the Castle Bravo hydrogen bomb at Bikini Atoll. The explosion, nearly 1,000 times more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb and almost [three times greater than what planners anticipated](#), spread radioactive fallout across inhabited atolls and marked the beginning of the Marshall Islands being used as a nuclear testing ground, with 67 U.S. nuclear weapons tests conducted there over the next 12 years.



Residents were exposed to dangerous radiation levels and suffered long-term health effects, including significantly [increased cancer risk](#) and [high rates](#) of infertility, stillbirths, miscarriages, and congenital birth defects.

These lasting harms are among the reasons the **UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons** calls for assistance to affected communities and [environmental remediation](#). Efforts are already underway internationally to [implement these obligations](#), including proposals to establish a UN trust fund to support survivors of nuclear detonations and clean up contaminated environments.

Last fall **President Trump** announced his decision to resume nuclear testing, a position [Oregon PSR strongly opposes](#). For more on the human consequences of nuclear testing, watch the documentary [Downwind](#), co-directed by Portland's **Mark Shapiro** (seen [here](#) on a panel with Vin at last fall's Powerhouse Film and Book Festival).

In Congress, two bills are pushing back against renewed testing: [H.R. 5894](#) (the **RESTRAIN Act**) in the House, with **Rep. Val Hoyle** as Oregon's lone co-sponsor, and [S. 3090](#) (the **No Nuclear Testing Act**) in the Senate, with **Sen. Ron Wyden** as Oregon's lone co-sponsor. [House Resolution 1888](#) calls for the United States to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and commit to the global elimination of nuclear arms, but it currently has no Oregon co-sponsors.

March 5 is International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness. This week, Oregon PSR calls on all members of Oregon's congressional delegation to support efforts to bring the United States into the TPNW and to reject any move toward restarting nuclear testing.



Rumble on the River 29: Rigged For Ruin *Methane: An Accelerating Threat to Health & Climate*

For the past two decades, communities in the Northwest have defeated fracked gas export terminals. Despite these successes, the “natural” gas industry continues to push their product.

Come learn about methane’s many harms and alternatives to its use such as thermal heat networks. Discussion will include environmental, climate, and health impacts, the damage dealt to communities through fracking operations, and the rampant greenwashing of this questionable energy source.

Oregon PSR will bring both medical and climate leadership to the panel.

 **Moderator:** Lynn Handlin, Extinction Rebellion PDX and Cascadia Magical Activists

Panelists:

Carra Sahler, Director, Green Energy Institute at Lewis & Clark Law School

Danny Noonan, Climate, Energy and Labor Strategist, Breach Collective

Diana Meisenhelter, NAACP Environmental Justice Committee and Extinction Rebellion PDX

Melanie Plaut, Physician and Volunteer, Oregon PSR

Samantha Hernandez, Healthy Climate Program Director, Oregon PSR

The fossil fuel industry has been stacking the deck for years. We cannot afford to gamble with our health, our communities, or our climate.

 **Tuesday, March 24**

 **345 NE 8th Ave** (Portland Association of Teachers office)

 Doors and info at 5:30 PM | Panel begins at 6:30 PM

Join us in person for this timely and important conversation.

Stewart Udall: The Politics of Beauty

Join Havurah Shalom's Climate Action, Oregon PSR, and other Community Partners as we continue the *Earth Justice Film Series-Stories to Inspire* with the showing of **Stewart Udall: The Politics of Beauty** on **Sunday, March 29, 3-5pm. Doors open at 2:30** to allow time for people to connect with community organizations who will be tabling. A discussion with the film maker will follow the showing of the film. Popcorn will be served. The event is **Free**.



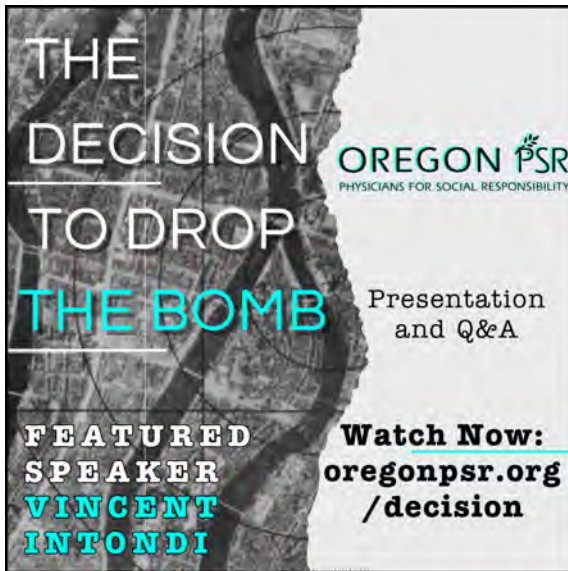
Havurah Shalom is located at 825 NW 18th St, Portland, OR 97209

Free parking is available on the street and at Legacy - 1919 NW Lovejoy. Park in any spot except 1-10.

For more on **Stewart Udall: The Politics of Beauty**, click [here](#).

For details about the film series, including a flier, go to: <https://linktr.ee/earthjusticefilms>

RSVP Here



Watch the Decision to Drop the Bomb

Earlier this month, Vincent Intondi joined Oregon PSR's Nuclear Free Program for [The Decision to Drop the Bomb](#), an exploration in the narratives, spin, and justifications surrounding the decision to drop nuclear weapons on civilians 80 years ago. If you missed our live presentation and discussion, please check out the video of the event.

Watch Here

Vin on KBOO's Old Mole Variety Hour

Earlier this month, OPSR Executive Director Dr. **Vincent Intondi** appeared on KBOO's *Old Mole Variety Hour* to discuss the long history of Black peace activism and opposition to nuclear weapons. In conversation with **Patricia Kullberg**, Vin traced organizing efforts from figures such as **W.E.B. Du Bois** and **Paul Robeson** through later movements, highlighting how many activists connected nuclear weapons to racism and colonialism and faced political backlash for doing so. The discussion explores how these voices helped shape the broader disarmament movement and why that history still matters today.



Listen here

As always, we are deeply grateful for your continued [support](#) of Oregon PSR and all that you make possible. Your dedication helps us protect community health, confront the threats of climate change and nuclear weapons, and work for a more peaceful and just future.

Support Oregon PSR



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