

Submitter: Jenny Pompilio

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4046

Dear Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Gamba and Levy, and members of the committee:

My name is Jenny Pompilio. I am a physician, public health advocate and mother living in Portland Oregon. I am testifying today in OPPOSITION to HB 4046, which seeks to advance nuclear energy development in Oregon by funding a potentially biased study that focuses on its advantages without including a well-rounded scientifically based appraisal of its myriad and alarming disadvantages.

The issue of nuclear waste management presents a formidable challenge. Nuclear reactors produce highly radioactive waste that can remain hazardous for hundreds of thousands of years. Current methods for storing this waste are not foolproof and pose ongoing risks to both human health and the environment. Exposure to radiation can be acute, chronic and cumulative. It can result in radiation sickness, genetic defects, birth defects, liver and kidney damage, thyroid disease, leukemia, other cancers and death. The lack of a permanent solution for nuclear waste storage must be part of the discussion if we are to consider expanding nuclear energy in our state.

Oregon has a strong track record of taking action to advance climate justice. And we have a responsibility to continue this momentum now when federal leadership is slashing and burning essential climate investments and safety measures. I do not want communities in my state to be sacrifice zones for adverse health outcomes, possible nuclear disaster and skyrocketing energy bills. I am calling on legislators to stay focused on real solutions to the climate crisis: energy efficiency, renewables, and storage—not wasting time and resources on a nuclear fantasy. Please VOTE NO on advancing HB 4046.

Sincerely,  
Jenny Pompilio MD, MPH  
Portland, Oregon