

**Submitted Testimony Before the House Climate Energy and Environment Committee
Support for House Bill 4046**

By Noah Shampain

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Chair Lively, Vice Chair Gamba, Vice Chair Levy, and Members of the House Climate, Energy, and Environment Committee,

My name is Noah Shampain and I am a Sophomore at Oregon State University studying Nuclear Science and Engineering. I am also an undergraduate student researcher with the Briggs Group here at OSU, helping conduct materials science research relating to material behavior in molten salt reactor environments, on behalf of TerraPower.

I am here today **in support** of HB 4046, as a student and future nuclear engineer, proud Oregon resident, and a citizen that is very concerned about the future of energy and the environment in our state, and beyond.

Energy and Environmental Concerns.

Energy and electricity are one of the most overlooked parts of our modern lives, yet they have an outsized impact on the environment around us. As a young person, and someone that loves to spend time in the wilderness of our state, preserving the nature and environment we get to enjoy is extremely important to me, and one of the biggest steps we can take to make that happen is reducing our carbon emissions.

Here in Oregon, we do a pretty good job at creating electricity from renewable sources, but there is still a lot of room for improvement. In 2023, over 30% of our electricity came from carbon emitting sources (natural gas, coal, biomass...). On the other hand, nuclear energy was responsible for less than 3% of the electricity consumed in OR.

This is our opportunity to start to fix that disparity. Not only is nuclear energy production the safest and most efficient form of non-carbon emitting electricity production in the world, it is also a uniquely good option for electricity production in Oregon. This is in large part thanks to the geography of Oregon, and the industry and innovation in this field

that already exists here. Besides this, the existence of other types of renewable energy infrastructure that are already in place in Oregon would work perfectly with nuclear energy to provide 100% clean, reliable, and safe energy for our state for decades to come.

Opportunity for Leading Innovation and Economic Growth.

As you may already be aware, Oregon is home to one of the two major universities that offer nuclear engineering on the West Coast. It is also home to NuScale, the only company in the United States that has a NRC approved Small Modular Reactor Design. Needless to say, Oregon is uniquely situated to be one of the leading innovators of advanced nuclear energy production in the country and the world.

This bill could lay the path for a new wave of national and international investment in Oregon, as well as Oregon educational institutions. This would not only benefit the residents of Oregon in terms of economic growth, but it would also benefit the young people of Oregon, both now and in the future, as there would very likely be expanded investment in technical and engineering education and jobs in our state.

In Conclusion:

I urge the committee to support HB 4046 as it represents a step towards a cleaner, more reliable and resilient energy grid, as well as an opportunity for huge investment in our state and educational institutions which would benefit young people for generations to come.

Thank you for your time.