

Submitter: Jackson Jorgenson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4046

Chair Lively and members of the committee, for the record, my name is Jackson Jorgenson. I attended Winston Churchill High School in Eugene, Oregon. I am currently a sophomore at Oregon State University studying Nuclear Science and Engineering. I serve as Director of Public Relations in our student chapter of the American Nuclear Society, and I am an undergraduate researcher in Dr. Tianyi Chen's Materials for Extreme Environments and Nuclear Applications group. This has been an amazing opportunity for someone like myself, who aspires to earn a doctorate and continue to advance nuclear engineering.

I am here today to support House Bill 4046.

HB 4046 asks Oregon to study nuclear technologies, utilizing Oregon's own talent and expertise. As a student in the largest class of NSE students Oregon State has ever had, I am part of an expanding field in a critical technology for our country's future. I believe that using the state's talent is exactly the right approach.

My reasons for supporting this bill include:

First, as nuclear engineering students, we spend our days studying this field in great detail, and it is greatly encouraging to see that the legislature takes an interest in learning alongside us. This bill would allow policymakers and the Oregon public to better understand the numerous benefits that nuclear energy can bring.

Second, this bill matters because it formally includes Oregon State University in the study. Undoubtedly, OSU is an exceptional resource for research in these technologies. The Nuclear Engineering department is a small, close-knit program with world-class faculty, so for students like me, the opportunity to work with these outstanding professionals is invaluable for developing my skills as a scientist and as an individual. Without the

opportunities that Oregon State provides, many of my peers would have to leave Oregon to pursue our profession. As someone who grew up here, I can confidently say I would rather not live anywhere else in the United States and that studying the workforce and economic impacts of nuclear energy is a necessary step toward keeping Oregon the amazing place it is.

Finally, I greatly appreciate that this bill calls for engagement with Oregon's tribes,

something that nuclear energy's history has not always done. While I am not a member of one of Oregon's tribes, I am a member of the Cherokee Nation and I deeply value that there will be meaningful inclusion of tribal perspectives.

Thank you for your time, and I urge you to support this bill.