



Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Gamba and Levy, and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon People's Utility Districts Association, the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Oregon Municipal Electric Utilities Association, Portland General Electric, Pacific Power, and Idaho Power appreciate the opportunity to submit joint written testimony in support of HB 4046 and its accompanying -2 amendment. This bill would direct the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) to study the feasibility of developing advanced nuclear reactors, including small modular nuclear reactors (SMRs), in Oregon.

A study conducted by E3 indicates that the Pacific Northwest could face a 9-gigawatt electricity shortfall by 2030. As utilities that are committed to delivering safe, reliable, and affordable service, we are working diligently to prepare for this challenge. We believe nuclear energy—specifically emerging SMR technology—has the potential to serve as an important tool in ensuring we can continue to meet the evolving energy needs of Oregonians.

Oregon has long demonstrated leadership in pursuing ambitious clean energy goals and embracing innovative technologies to meet them. As we work together to achieve the state's decarbonization objectives while maintaining reliability across diverse communities, we believe it is prudent to explore all viable pathways. The -2 amendment to HB 4046 creates a responsible and transparent mechanism for evaluating whether SMRs could play a constructive role in Oregon's future resource mix.

We believe HB 4046 commissions a balanced, unbiased exploration of a broad spectrum of important relevant topics, including safety, development costs, timelines, cost-benefit analyses, and feasibility, without a predetermined conclusion.

While we support the study, we would oppose any increases to the Energy Supplier Assessment (ESA) because of the study, as ESA funds directly affect customer rates.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 4046 and for your meaningful consideration of this important issue.