



February 10, 2026

House Climate, Energy, and Environment Committee

**RE: HB 4046 - Nuclear Study Bill**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of Oregon Just Transition Alliance (OJTA). While we appreciate the efforts that have been made with other stakeholders to develop the -2 amendment, we unfortunately have to oppose HB 4046 on behalf of our alliance. OJTA is a statewide alliance representing frontline communities who experience climate change and environmental injustice first and worst, including people with disabilities, rural families, people of color, and low-income Oregonians.

Even though the -2 amendment would make a study on nuclear power more objective and thorough, we still have concerns that the bill still has a short timeline for completing the study in one year after receiving funds. Additionally, HB 4046 still allows for private funds to fund this study- which is an inherent conflict of interest. Lastly, it is no secret that any construction of a nuclear reactor would likely be in a rural area.

HB 4077 (2021) the Environmental Justice for All bill, defines "Environmental justice community" as "communities of color, communities experiencing lower incomes, communities experiencing health inequities, tribal communities, rural communities, coastal communities, communities with limited infrastructure and other communities traditionally underrepresented in public processes and adversely harmed by environmental and health hazards, including seniors, youth and persons with disabilities."<sup>1</sup> This definition would encompass rural eastern Oregon- yet impacted communities are left out of providing input, and there is no advisory group or community outreach included within the nuclear study itself.

Oregon has a strong track record of taking action to advance climate justice and a just transition. OJTA has partnered with many of you to pass HB 2021 100% (Clean Energy for All), HB 2427 (The Energy Affordability Act), and HB 2842 (The Healthy Homes Act) to continue to push forward energy policies that would make it easier and more affordable for Oregonians to address climate extremes and run on clean electricity. We have a continued

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2022R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/hb4077/Introduced>.

responsibility to continue this momentum now when federal leadership is slashing and burning essential climate investments and safety measures and destroying national safety standards for nuclear development. Communities cannot continue being sacrifice zones for nuclear waste sites and development.<sup>2</sup> We need to focus on real solutions to the climate crisis: energy efficiency, renewables, and storage. Please vote no on advancing HB 4046.

Sincerely,

Jamie Pang  
Director of Programs  
Oregon Just Transition Alliance

---

<sup>2</sup> See e.g. <https://www.kosu.org/news/2026-02-02/the-trump-administration-exempts-new-nuclear-reactors-from-environmental-review>