

Submitter: Anthony Miller

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4046

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of HB 4046, which directs the Oregon Department of Energy to conduct a study on nuclear energy, including advanced nuclear reactor technologies.

This bill does not authorize a nuclear facility. It does not change Oregon law regarding nuclear power. It simply asks for a thorough, data-driven evaluation of a major energy source at a time when Oregon faces serious questions about grid reliability, affordability, and long-term decarbonization.

Oregon has adopted ambitious clean energy goals. At the same time, we are seeing growing pressure on the electric grid due to population growth, electrification of transportation and heating, and increased wildfire-related outages. Wind and solar are important parts of the solution, but they are variable by nature. A reliable grid also needs firm, dispatchable power that does not depend on weather conditions.

Nuclear energy is one of the only large-scale, low-carbon energy sources capable of providing that type of steady power. Advanced reactor designs now under development are smaller, have passive safety features, and are intended to be more flexible and easier to site than traditional large reactors. Whether those technologies are a good fit for Oregon is an open question — and that is exactly why a formal study is appropriate.

HB 4046 ensures that any future discussion about nuclear energy in Oregon is based on evidence, not assumptions. The bill requires consultation with tribal governments and coordination with multiple agencies and stakeholders. That inclusive approach is essential for a topic with environmental, cultural, economic, and safety dimensions.

Importantly, this is a study, not a commitment. It allows Oregon to evaluate potential costs, safety considerations, waste management realities, regulatory barriers, and grid benefits before making any policy decisions. Refusing to even study an energy source limits our options at a time when energy resilience and affordability are becoming more urgent for families and businesses alike.

Good policy starts with good information. HB 4046 provides a structured, transparent way to gather that information so lawmakers and the public can make informed

decisions about Oregon's energy future.

I respectfully urge you to support HB 4046.

Thank you for your consideration.

Anthony Miller  
Rogue River, Oregon