



## **OREGON STATE SENATE**

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

My name is Khanh Pham, and I'm proud and honored to represent Oregonians in Senate District 23, covering parts of NE and SE Portland.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak a few minutes today to explain why I oppose HB 4046, even with the -2 amendment.

The amendment adds some important specifics about the nature and focus of the study, but unfortunately does not resolve its core flaw: **this study still lacks independence worthy of public trust.**

A study funded by private and federal sources — including entities with a direct financial and political interest in expanding nuclear power — is not neutral simply because conflicts are disclosed. Transparency does not cure bias. When industry and aligned federal actors can finance the work, they inevitably shape what questions are asked, what assumptions are made, and how conclusions are framed.

The -2 amendment adds process language, but it does not create a firewall between funders and outcomes. It does not give affected communities real power over scope or conclusions. And it does not change the fact that this study is contingent on money from parties who stand to benefit from a nuclear foothold in Oregon.

At the same time this bill asks us to legitimize a nuclear "study," the federal government is actively weakening nuclear safety standards, exempting projects from environmental review, and accelerating deployment with industry-written rules. In that environment, Oregon should be especially cautious — not lending credibility to a process that normalizes expansion under the guise of analysis.

This bill is not harmless. It is a strategic step to rehabilitate nuclear power politically and return in future sessions to erode Oregon's long-standing protections. Improving the packaging does not change the purpose.

For these reasons, **I urge a no vote on HB 4046.**