

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

My name is Blanca Gutierrez and I live in Medford, OR. I'm writing today in opposition to HB 4046. This bill, though seemingly just a study on nuclear, will allow bias from those that seek to advance nuclear energy development in Oregon without including a well-rounded look at its disadvantages.

We know Amazon, Google, and other tech companies are behind this bill as they push to expand AI centers that threaten to further burden our communities. Can you guarantee that a study funded by pro-nuclear entities will be clear about the drawbacks of nuclear in our state? Nuclear reactors produce highly radioactive waste that can remain hazardous for hundreds of thousands of years. Storing this waste is not foolproof and risks our health and the environment. The lack of a permanent solution for nuclear waste storage must be part of the discussion if we are to consider expanding nuclear energy in our state. Passing HB 4046 will signal to Oregonians that lawmakers do not need to be certain of all the dangers of nuclear expansion before making a deal with corporations.

Our attention is in the wrong place. Why are we not working instead to reach our goal of [80 percent emissions reductions](#) by 2030? It seems like our priorities are not in order. Initial costs associated with building and maintaining nuclear power plants are tremendous. According to a [Boston University study](#), "average construction cost overrun typically twice as much as expected or more, [with] the most extreme time delays. To be exact, the average nuclear power plant has a construction cost overrun of 102.5% and ends up costing \$1.56 billion more than expected." These funds could be better allocated toward renewable energy sources such as wind and solar, which are becoming increasingly cost-effective and environmentally friendly, ensuring a more sustainable and resilient energy future.

Oregon has a strong track record of taking action to advance resilience and climate justice. I don't want communities in my state to be sacrifice zones for nuclear disaster and skyrocketing energy bills. I am calling on legislators to stay focused on real solutions to the climate crisis: energy efficiency, renewables, and storage—not wasting time and resources on a nuclear fantasy. Please vote no on advancing HB 4046.