

Submitter: Joyce Follingstad  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4046

I am Joyce Follingstad, Ph.D., nurse and psychologist, from Portland, OR. I am greatly opposed to HB4046.

In 1980, we citizens of Oregon voted to have no further nuclear power in Oregon, unless there was a federally licensed permanent repository for the storage of high-level radioactive waste, and a statewide voter approval regarding any future nuclear power plants in Oregon. HB4046 ignores this law passed by the ballot in 1980.

There is no federally licensed high-level waste repository, and it may never exist.

Just because certain billionaires and trillionaires want to fund nuclear power in Oregon to get access to our fresh water for their data centers and industries, does not mean we citizens of Oregon want to bear the health burdens of nuclear power in our state. Some citizens are already at risk, as waste sits in casks on the Columbia River where Trojan once produced power. A poorly constructed plant which sat on earthquake faults, Trojan risked the health and lives of many who are still endangered with nuclear waste on that site. We know from Ukraine that nuclear power is a potential magnet for terrorist activities and a target in a time of war. We also do not want nuclear power, as we citizens cannot insure our bodies or our property against nuclear damages, and we are not included in evacuation plans. We also do not want to cause harm to more poor and indigenous people who have suffered as uranium miners and as those living near nuclear mines, facilities and waste holding tanks.

I most strongly oppose HB4046 because asking Oregon State University to be a part of a study team to find benefit in nuclear power for Oregon is a huge conflict of interest. Their involvement in developing the NuScale Small Modular Nuclear Reactors disqualifies them from being an objective party in such a study. In addition, bringing private money into a study that will give potential profit to those private entities, nullifies any pretense of a scientific, ethical, balanced or objective study. Also, all nuclear power studies and projects must be tabled while we are living through this time of the Federal Administration dismantling our National Regulatory Commission. These moves are destroying the very system of safety and security regulation that has kept us from further nuclear accidents following the Three Mile Island incident that caused nuclear materials to be released into the environment. Finally, HB4046 should be tabled and removed from any further discussion, if you care even one iota for the people you have sworn to represent and protect.

Thank you for your kind consideration of my testimony of opposition to HB4046.

Sincerely, Dr. Joyce Follingstad