



Clean water. Healthy rivers.

No on HB 4046 Submitted Testimony

2/11/25

Kelly Campbell, Policy Director
Columbia Riverkeeper

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

For the record, my name is Kelly Campbell and I am the Policy Director at Columbia Riverkeeper.

I first want to express my appreciation for Representative Gamba, Representative B. Levy, and Representative Wright and their staff, along with lobbyist Maureen McGee, for providing the opportunity for us to suggest amendments to the bill, many of which were included in the -2 amendment. We believe that our suggestions have made HB 4046 a more objective, stronger study.

However, we still have serious concerns about moving either the -2 or the original bill forward. These include:

- **Private and federal funding would pay for the study.** In order to avoid a price tag for the study, the bill proposes that all funding would come from private and federal funds, to be raised by the ODOE. This opens the door for private funders with a financial interest in nuclear projects — like big tech, nuclear corporations, and the nuclear safety-slashing Trump administration — to pay for the study they want, not a study with integrity.
- **Affected communities are left out.** We proposed that the study include an advisory group of affected communities including representatives of environmental justice communities, clean water advocates, public health professionals, and others who bring their particular expertise to the issue. We were told that this was too expensive and would take too long to be included in the amended bill. Shutting meaningful community input out of

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the process will not create a robust and trustworthy study.

- **Federal nuclear safeguards are being thrown out the window.** In recent weeks, the federal government has accelerated its efforts at destroying national safety standards for nuclear development in the U.S. This includes secretly [rewriting nuclear safety rules](#), [exempting new nuclear projects](#) from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review, [loosening radiation exposure rules](#), and more. The federal government's recent actions prompted Washington legislators to stop a nuclear study bill in their state, and Oregon should follow their lead. **We must protect ourselves.**

This bill is a vehicle for the nuclear industry and their Big Tech backers to lay the groundwork to come back in future sessions with more proposals like those in 2025 to exempt Umatilla County from our statewide moratorium on new nuclear reactors, or to dismantle the moratorium itself. Please vote no on HB 4046.

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