



February 11, 2026

Oregon State Legislature
House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Opposition for HB 4046; Relating to nuclear energy

Dear Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Gamba and Levy, and Members of the Committee,

While we appreciate the vast improvements that have been made to this bill and the addition of suggestions from Sierra Club Oregon in the -2 amendment, on behalf of the more than 55,000 members and supporters of the Sierra Club Oregon Chapter, we write in opposition of HB 4046. This bill is framed as a neutral study but the scope and structure of HB 4046 go far beyond information gathering and instead lay the groundwork for advancing nuclear development in Oregon. For the following three reasons, we are choosing to oppose the advancement of HB 4046 at this time:

1. Federal nuclear safeguards are being removed and in recent weeks, the federal government has accelerated its efforts at erasing national safety standards for nuclear development in the U.S. This includes secretly rewriting nuclear safety rules with industry involvement, exempting new nuclear projects from National Environmental Policy Act review and loosening radiation exposure rules.¹ The federal government's recent actions prompted Washington legislators to stop a nuclear study bill in their state, and Oregon should follow their lead.²
2. The bill requires consultation with certain state agencies and tribal governments which we support. However, it does not establish an advisory group consisting of a wider range of impacted parties such as environmental justice communities, public health professionals, clean water advocates, or independent safety experts. Given the long term health, waste, and environmental impacts of nuclear development, it is essential to have meaningful and structured community participation to ensure credibility for the results of the study.
3. HB 4046 makes the study contingent on federal or private funding sources. This creates the potential for financial contributors with a direct interest in nuclear development in Oregon to influence the study. Public confidence in the results depends on independence and transparency which this proposal for funding does not support.

Oregon would be served far greater by dedicating agency capacity to clean energy technologies that are deployable today, affordable, and aligned with Oregon's climate and public health goals.

For these reasons, Sierra Club Oregon respectfully urges the committee not to advance HB 4046.

¹ <https://www.npr.org/2026/01/28/nx-s1-5677187/nuclear-safety-rules-rewritten-trump>

² <https://www.npr.org/2026/01/28/nx-s1-5677187/nuclear-safety-rules-rewritten-trump>



SIERRA CLUB

OREGON CHAPTER

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Bowes, Policy Strategist

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily Bowes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.