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February 11, 2026

To: Representative John Lively, Chair, House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment
Re: HB 4046, relating to nuclear energy

Representative Lively and members of the committee:

I am a professor of nuclear engineering and head of the School of Nuclear Science and Engineering at Oregon State University. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this letter in support of HB 4046.

Energy—its production and use—will play a critical role in Oregon’s economic growth, workforce development, and long-term quality of life. HB 4046 directs a study to evaluate the feasibility of nuclear energy within Oregon’s future energy portfolio. Oregon State University does not take a position for or against nuclear energy development in Oregon. Rather, we support HB 4046 because it commissions a rigorous, evidence-based study to inform future legislative decision-making. Decisions about Oregon’s energy portfolio appropriately rest with the Legislature, and those decisions are best supported by transparent analysis grounded in sound science, engineering, and economics. HB 4046 creates a framework for asking these questions in a disciplined way, without presupposing outcomes.

OSU’s role, if called upon, would be strictly analytical and advisory. The University brings deep expertise across disciplines directly relevant to the study contemplated in this bill including nuclear engineering, nuclear safety, environmental impacts including waste management, and nuclear workforce development. Our faculty have a long record of independent, peer-reviewed research and public-service work supporting state and federal agencies, and various communities—always with a focus on objective evaluation. Our interest is in ensuring that Oregon policymakers and the public have access to credible, unbiased information when evaluating complex energy choices with long-term implications.

We appreciate the Committee’s consideration of HB 4046 and stand ready to serve as a neutral technical resource, should the Legislature determine that such expertise would be helpful.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian G. Woods". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "B".

Brian G. Woods, PhD
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