

Nuclear Study Bill Testimony,

I am writing to Oppose HB 4046.

I am a resident of Ashland, Oregon and am an environmental chemist. I understand the importance of researching renewable and safe energy as we try to transition away from fossil fuels. Unfortunately, I think that nuclear power is not the answer. Before researching this topic, I thought that a nuclear study bill would be great, but this bill seems set up to only find the positives of nuclear power, and seems to have corporate interests at heart, not the safety and wellbeing of Oregonians.

The push towards SMNRs is also concerning to me as a scientist. A little more on Small Modular Nuclear Reactors from a scientist's perspective: the waste generated from nuclear power is stored on-site, and it is a core principle of nuclear waste safety is that it is isolated, monitored, and shielded from attack by air in as few locations as possible. This ensures that health physicists could even have a chance of keeping it sealed, and this WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE in SMNRs. Additionally SMNRs are being pushed as a way to power large data centers, which we have already seen to be bad for communities and the environment (re: water usage), and which I strongly oppose, and would not benefit hardworking Oregonians.

I am concerned that this bill would pave the way for nuclear power in Oregon, which I think would be very dangerous and as of now, money and time should be spent researching and improving other clean energy, such as wind and solar.

If this bill does go through, I would want it to be changed in a few ways. I would want the study timeline to be moved further out, because you cannot collect unbiased and sufficient data in the timeline that is suggested. I also think that the bill language needs to be changed to look at the cons of nuclear and the pros of other green energy sources, and to make sure that outside interests cannot influence the findings of the study.

Thank you for your time,

Paloma Ronca