

Submitter: Laura Feldman  
On Behalf Of: Stop Nuclear Work Group  
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4046

HB4046 Testimony

Laura Feldman, Stop Nuclear Work Group

To: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Chair Lively and Members of the Committee,

My name is Laura Feldman. I was born and raised in Portland where I currently live. I have studied the nuclear narrative for many years, beginning with the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, and have served on the Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board, my term ending in 2024.

I oppose HB4046 as the Oregon Department of Energy recently conducted an energy study determining nuclear power to be too expensive to be included in the Oregon Energy Strategy, to be revisited in four years. The time and money spent on another study is time and money better spent on actual renewable energies. nuclear power is not only not renewable it is a carbon-heavy, deadly pretense of “safe and reliable” energy generating waste we do not know what to do with.

This study is a cover by nuclear proponents to increase the spread of small modular nuclear reactors and their data centers eating up the Oregon landscape. This study draws us closer to a risky investment in this nuclear technology which has not been ground tested in the U.S. to date. This study is a dangerous waste of resources as the climate crisis bears down on us.

Allowing ODOE to accept private funding for this study would follow USDOE's dangerous precedent: Corporate control of nuclear energy, ultimately foreclosing on any citizen participation in this decision as meaningless and unprofitable.

I urge a NO vote on HB 4046, as Washington state legislators recently did on similar legislation.