

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



February 11, 2026

From: Community Renewable Energy Association - CREA

Subject: Testimony in support of HB

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

CREA supports HB 4046 with the -2 amendment.

CREA is an ORS 190 intergovernmental association, with both Oregon local government elected leaders and renewable energy developers on its board of directors. Members include counties, irrigation districts, councils of government, renewable energy project developers, for-profit businesses and non-profit organizations. CREA supports business and local economic opportunities through renewable energy development in a competitive environment.

We have a unique position of coming at energy policy from both the developer and local government perspectives. Often CREA's developer members bring forward interesting projects and ideas to our meetings. New & emerging technologies are of interest to CREA, especially given the current restraints hindering bold development of wind and solar in the state. In the past we have been vocal supporting newer energy technologies like off-shore wind and clean hydrogen, unfortunately, those options have been facing severe headwinds.

Nuclear is becoming more popular as the energy need continues and other options fail to meet the need. However, nuclear faces maybe the largest headwinds of all. Oregon has already banned the production of nuclear in the state. Nuclear would be incredibly expensive and would likely take over a decade to site and build. So why does CREA support this bill? We believe the information that could be obtained from this study is absolutely worth having especially when it will not cost taxpayers money since it will be funded by private funds.

As we have seen, even in the last few years, technologies can develop and adapt quickly, policies or politics can change favoring certain options over others. Oregon needs more energy. We should be looking ahead and exploring all options when given the opportunity. We are glad Umatilla County has brought this bill forward to continue the conversation on the feasibility of developing nuclear energy and we appreciate the time Rep. Gamba and others put in to make sure the bill sets up the study to be as fair and objective as possible.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James Williams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "W".

James Williams
CREA Executive Director