

Submitter:

Keith Jayawickrama

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4080

Dear committee:

I write to express my strong support for this bill.

Despite being the place of origin for this technology about 75 years ago, the USA is rapidly falling behind many other countries in the adoption of solar generating capacity. This is partly due to policy and lack of support at the Federal level. At the same time, high costs of labor and the costs, complexities, and delays of the permitting process are putting the cost of rooftop solar installation out of the reach of many who would like to install such systems. The people of the state of Oregon and the country are the losers from all of these, in lost electricity generation, increased electricity cost, and increased damage to the climate, the environment, and to people's health and wellbeing.

I commend the sponsors of HB4080 for taking this initiative. HB 4080 is most timely, aiming to increase to a small degree the generation of electricity at the local level, and to empower homeowners and renters to generate a portion of their electricity thus insulating them to a small degree from rapidly increasing electricity costs. Many homeowners are unable to afford the \$15,000+ cost of installing rooftop solar (this high cost being another issue that needs to be addressed) but would be able to afford a 1,200 W portable system. Renters can take the unit with them if and when they move to another residence. Many parts of the state are suitable for solar power generation especially in the spring to early fall with long days. Some roofs are subject to a lot of shade, but the homeowner \ renter can seek out the few sunny areas in the yard to locate the portable unit.

We are well aware that the demand for electricity is increasing so rapidly that the utilities and the outdated electric grid are struggling to keep up. The beauty of generating electricity at one's own residence is that it does not add to the growing backlog of projects waiting for interconnection approval.

Even representatives and senators for whom climate action is a low priority, can support this legislation which gives their constituents agency and freedom to improve their own lives, take steps they consider important for themselves, and to reduce their utility costs. The cost to the state should be minimal or zero, which is a win-win situation.

Other states in the USA are also introducing such legislation at this time. Joint passage of these bills will (1) incentivize UL to complete the process of certification and (2) lower the cost of these portable units by increasing the market penetration and volume sold.

The developers of this Bill have done all the necessary due diligence in considering safety issues, and in keeping the proper mechanisms in place such as going through UL certification, or through certification by another competent organization.

I urge our State Representatives and State Senators to pass this important legislation in the 2026 session.

Thank you.