

Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Levy, and Vice-Chair Gamba,

I urge you to support HB 4080, the plug-in solar bill. At a time of rising energy demand and increasing electricity bills, plug-in solar will allow many more of us to generate our own clean power and reduce our bills.

Those of us who rent our homes will be able to use plug-in solar – that's 40% of Oregonians. Other groups that can benefit are homeowners who can't afford rooftop solar, and those with shady or unsuitable roofs.

These systems must be UL certified, so we can be confident they are safe for users and for power line workers in the event of an outage. The bill contains other protections for utilities, similar to the Utah bill.

When paired with a battery, these small-scale solar systems will mean we can power a refrigerator or life-sustaining medical equipment during an outage.

In total, if we pass this bill, more than half of Oregonians across the state will have access to this small form of energy independence, and become more energy-aware in our daily lives.