

Submitter:

Margaret Sherraden

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4080

I am writing in support of HB 4080, Plug-in Solar (so-called “balcony” solar). This legislation reflects Oregon values of fairness, self-reliance, and practical problem-solving. It gives families more control over their energy costs while supporting a responsible transition to cleaner energy.

As a social worker, this bill is particularly important to me because it can reduce families’ electric bills by up to 20%. For families facing rising energy costs, plug-in solar is a safe and practical way to reduce financial stress.

Today, an estimated 70% of US households cannot install rooftop solar due to high upfront costs, rental status, or unsuitable roofs. Plug-in solar offers an important and realistic option.

Plug-in solar can be installed in many locations – such as backyards, on mobile homes, porches, balconies, or fences – making them available to far more Oregonians. These systems will require UL certification, ensuring that they are safe and meet established safety standards.

Plug-in solar is also a proven and achievable solution. Last year, Utah unanimously passed similar plug-in solar legislation. And in Germany, an estimated 4 million households already use plug-in solar. This year nearly half of U.S. states are considering comparable bills.

Finally, HB 4080 requires no state funding. It does not mandate participation; it simply gives Oregonians another tool to take care of their households, manage rising energy costs, and plan for the future.