

Submitter:

Hannah Ellis

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4080

Dear Chair Lively, and Members of the House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment. My name is Hannah Ellis representing BrightSaver.org, a non-profit dedicated to building a plug-in solar movement in the US, making solar ownership affordable and accessible to everyone. I am testifying to encourage the Committee to support HB 4080 to allow the people of Oregon to access plug-in solar, saving money by reducing their electricity bills. This is a market-driven solution requiring no tax credits or public funds. It's just cutting red tape.

We support HB 4080 as written because it ensures that plug-in solar systems are safe for consumers and for the grid. Systems installed according to safety standards cited in the bill will not:

- Shock users
- Overload circuits or create fire hazards
- Backfeed during a power outage, which protects line workers and anyone working on a multi-unit building

Plug-in solar provides meaningful access for renters and apartment residents. Approximately one-third of households in the United States are renters, many of whom are excluded from clean energy programs. This technology ensures that access to clean energy is not limited by housing status.

In addition, plug-in solar reduces electricity bills and improves energy resilience. By directly supplying power to household appliances, these systems reduce the amount of electricity households must purchase from utilities. When paired with battery storage, plug-in solar can also provide backup power during outages, improving household resilience and energy independence.

Current regulations in most jurisdictions were designed for large rooftop solar systems and impose costly and time-consuming interconnection requirements that are disproportionate to the minimal grid impact of small plug-in systems. Updating these outdated rules to create a new class of small photovoltaic systems would lower costs, reduce administrative burdens, and maintain strong safety protections for consumers and utility workers.

Proven policy models show that exempting small plug-in solar systems from one-size-fits-all interconnection requirements—while maintaining clear safety standards—can significantly reduce costs and accelerate clean energy adoption without shifting

costs to utilities or other ratepayers. For instance, in Utah HB 340 passed unanimously last year and this year, more than 25 states are moving plug-in solar legislation across the political spectrum.

For these reasons, I urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on HB4080 and support legislation that expands access to affordable, scalable clean energy solutions.