

House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment
Regarding HB 4080 – Portable Solar Photovoltaic Devices

Chair Lively and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jason Rood, and I am an Oregon resident in Clackamas County. I am writing in strong support of HB 4080, which would authorize the safe use of small portable solar photovoltaic devices by Oregon electricity customers.

Oregon households are facing sustained electricity rate increases driven by wildfire mitigation, grid modernization, inflation, and infrastructure investments. These costs fall hardest on renters, lower-income households, and residents who cannot afford or are not permitted to install traditional rooftop solar. HB 4080 addresses that gap in a practical and measured way.

This bill is intentionally limited and safety-focused:

- It applies only to small-scale systems (\leq 1,200 watts total capacity).
- Devices must meet recognized electrical safety standards under UL and the National Electrical Code.
- These systems use microinverters with anti-islanding protection, meaning they automatically shut off during a grid outage, protecting line workers and public safety.
- It includes renter and homeowner association protections, preventing blanket prohibitions while still allowing reasonable rules related to safety and structural integrity.

HB 4080 does not replace traditional solar programs, net metering, or utility-scale energy investments. Instead, it creates an entry-level access point for people currently excluded from participating in clean energy. A modest plug-in system costing a few hundred dollars can offset daytime household loads like refrigeration, electronics, or cooling. While small, this reduction can meaningfully help families coping with rising monthly bills.

The bill also advances broader state goals:

- Expands distributed generation without new public subsidies
- Helps reduce localized peak demand
- Improves household energy resilience and awareness
- Aligns Oregon with emerging policy approaches recognizing the safety and practicality of certified plug-and-play solar technologies

Importantly, HB 4080 balances innovation with oversight. The declaration requirement to utilities and the role of building code authorities provide visibility and safety while avoiding the cost and complexity of full interconnection processes designed for much larger systems.

This is a thoughtful, equitable modernization of Oregon's approach to small-scale distributed energy. It gives residents more choice, more control, and a realistic path to participate in the clean energy transition without needing to own a roof or take on large financial risk.

I respectfully urge the committee to support HB 4080.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jason Rood

Clackamas County, Oregon