



House Committee on Climate, Energy and the Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

February 5, 2026

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-chairs Gamba and Levy, and members of the committee,

The Oregon Solar + Storage Industries Association (OSSIA) is a trade association founded in 1981 to promote clean, renewable, solar technologies. OSSIA members include businesses, non-profits, and other solar and storage stakeholders. We provide a unified voice of the solar industry and focus exclusively on the solar and storage value chains; from workforce development to permitting, advocacy, policy, and regulation for manufacturing, residential, commercial, community, and utility scale solar and storage projects on the local, state, and regional level.

OSSIA supports the concept of balcony solar and HB 4080. There is great promise for this technology and we hope to see it come to Oregon. However, we also have safety concerns that we need to state for the record here. If all goes as intended, OSSIA expects to see a product and standards that have resolved our safety concerns. It is in this spirit that we support HB 4080.

Balcony solar is widely used in Europe. While this is great, since they have been able to create and fine tune the technology, it is also an apples to oranges comparison. Across Europe, outlets are 240 volts, while in the U.S. ours are 120 V. Because of this difference in voltage, the U.S. cannot simply adopt Germany's technology as is. In addition, Germany recently set its balcony solar at 800 watts, which is substantially smaller than the 1200 watts in HB 4080, when considering the difference in voltage.

However, we understand that Underwriters Laboratory is working on a certification for balcony solar systems in the U.S. In addition to being UL certified, the National Electrical Code (NEC) will need to adopt provisions so that balcony solar is correctly installed and works with both the wiring in the building and the grid as a whole. After the National Electrical Code is adopted, Oregon adopts a statewide version of that code. These two processes should address all safety concerns that OSSIA currently has.

In addition, it is appropriate that balcony solar is considered separate from net metering. Net metering did not envision balcony solar when it was created and balcony solar should not participate

PO Box 14927, Portland, OR 97293-0927
Email: angela@orssia.org
www.orssia.org



in that program. OSSIA does not see the need to prohibit backfeeding in this bill. When these systems are approved by both UL and the NEC, backfeeding would be rare, and if it occurred it would be minimal and most likely preventable, and if it did occur at all. The provision in the -3 to prohibit backfeeding is unnecessary.

OSSIA supports HB 4080 and hopes to see safe, regulated balcony solar systems in the near future.

Sincerely,

Angela Crowley-Koch
Executive Director