



**Testimony to the House Climate, Energy, and Environment Committee
re: HB 4080**

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Oregon Environmental Council**

Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance equitable, innovative, and collaborative solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Re: Oregon Environmental Council support for HB 4080

Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Gamba, Vice-Chair Levy, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Oregon Environmental Council and our thousands of members throughout the state, I write in support of HB 4080. This legislation opens the door to plug-in solar — an affordable, portable, and accessible way for Oregonians to generate clean energy at home — and it does so with meaningful safety guardrails already built in.

Right now, the majority of Oregonians cannot benefit from rooftop solar. Renters, homeowners with shaded or unsuitable roofs, and those who simply cannot afford a full rooftop system are locked out of the solar transition entirely. HB 4080 changes that. By allowing residents to plug a certified solar device into a standard 120-volt outlet, this bill puts solar within reach for the first time for many Oregonians.

There are important safety standards to consider with this technology — and so does this bill. HB 4080 requires that every device be listed by Underwriters Laboratories or an equivalent nationally recognized testing laboratory. It mandates compliance with the National Electrical Code and includes an anti-islanding safety feature that automatically shuts the device down during a power outage, protecting both the grid and first responders. These are not afterthoughts. They are core requirements written directly into the bill.

We also note that HB 4080 already empowers the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services to amend the state building code as necessary to address installation and use of these devices — including provisions for electrical service capacity, exterior mounting, and safe operations. This is precisely the kind of expert, industry-informed review that building codes boards are assembled to carry out, and the bill's framework invites that work to happen.

Beyond safety, HB 4080 is an equity measure. It protects renters from landlords who would otherwise ban these devices outright, and it invalidates overly broad restrictions by homeowners associations and condo associations. As more states adopt plug-in solar frameworks — Utah already has, and over 20 other states are introducing similar legislation — Oregon has an opportunity to lead a growing national market that will drive prices down and expand access to clean energy for everyone.

Oregon Environmental Council and our thousands of members throughout the state urge you to support HB 4080.

Sincerely,

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