

Submitter: Joseph Stenger

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4080

I write in support of HB 4080-4 to allow small plugin solar units. I myself have benefited from free natural energy since 1980 when our family installed a solar hot water unit. I have been frustrated that roadblocks have frequently slowed US development of this clean energy source, dating back to retrenchment of progress that had been made under President Carter due to President Reagan's devotion to fossil fuels. We are seeing similar retrenchment under the current Federal administration.

HB 4080 supports introduction of small solar units. The -4 amendment has been carefully crafted to meet concerns about circumventing the regulatory process. In fact, passing this bill will emphasize the necessity of careful development of regulations through the Building Codes Division. If this bill does not pass, consumers will be installing these devices regardless of safety requirements, raising safety risks. Passage of this bill will enhance safety, while allowing many more Oregonians to reap the benefits from lower energy costs.

Passage of HB 4080 will increase adoption of this technology, reducing stress on our increasingly stressed grid, and speeding progress toward a modernized distributed grid.

Supposed worries about balcony solar impeding firefighter access to apartments are undermined by the fact that there are over a million such units installed in Germany without reports of firefighting problems. In fact, the rate of installation there is expected to accelerate.

Plug-in solar will lower energy costs for consumers (especially helpful for those who can't afford rooftop solar), will ease stress on the grid, improve resilience, and reduce GHG emissions. It is a win for all of us.

I encourage your vote in favor of HB 4080. Thank you!

My name is Joseph Stenger MD. I am on the Steering Committee for MCAT, Mobilizing Climate Action Together. We are a community of experienced volunteers who help steward significant greenhouse gas reduction policy into state law and advocate for an expanding green economy here in Oregon.