

Submitter:

Austin Eversole

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4080

My name is Austin Eversole and I leave in south Beaverton. I unfortunately did not submit in time for the hearing, but I would like to express my support for this measure. I'm a software engineer who wants a livable future for me and my generation.

In California, State Senator Scott Weiner has introduced a new bill (SB 868, the Plug Into the Sun Act!) to deregulate backyard “balcony” solar for the Golden State. He said “Californians should have every tool available to lower energy costs, especially given the disastrous rate hikes in recent years.

Renters and residents of apartment buildings in particular deserve options to lower costs and access clean energy the same way homeowners can access rooftop solar. These technologies are a win-win-win, and enabling access to them is simply good government.” — California State Senator Scott Weiner

California now joins many other U.S. states (including New York, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maryland, and Pennsylvania) now working to introduce legislation to make plug-in solar practically accessible for their people. The 2026 state legislative session could be transformative for American clean power!

The state of Utah voted to deregulate plug-in solar in 2025, with unanimous bipartisan support. Solar provides abundant low-cost power, but many Americans can't access rooftop solar due to cost, renter status, or other reasons. Plug-in solar, aka “balcony” or “backyard” solar, allows anyone to get their own source of cheap clean power. Utah's first-in-the-nation plug-in solar law in 2025 just the start of a nationwide trend!

It is technically legally possible to install plug-in solar in much of the U.S., but it's prohibitively difficult in practice because it requires the homeowner to submit the same kind of complex, technical diagram-heavy grid interconnection request that you'd need for a full-scale solar farm. The Utah plug-in solar bill simply created a new interconnection request-exempt legal category for small-scale solar systems.

This bill is what Oregon needs to join many other states who passed a common sense bill to allow consumers to install and use portable Solar photovoltaic energy devices.

The potential of plug-in solar technology is truly incredible. In Germany, more than 500,000 plug-in solar systems have been installed so far, and major retailer IKEA is now selling integrated kits including both plug-in “balcony” solar arrays and a home battery — a fully independent household clean power plant being sold for 1,229 euros!

Deregulating plug-in solar is a no-brainer for every state in America! I urge you to support HR 4080. State leaders have a historic opportunity here to bring forward a future where all Americans can generate their own clean, abundant, affordable electricity. Any state policymaker who takes the initiative to cosponsor and pass this plug-in solar deregulation bill will be demonstrating true leadership.

Please cosponsor and pass this bill deregulating and allowing for plug-in solar for Oregon!