

Submitter: John Perona  
On Behalf Of: MCAT  
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4080

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony for HB 4080. I write in SUPPORT of the bill.

I am Professor (emeritus) of Chemistry at Portland State University and author of the climate change science/policy text for laypersons titled From Knowledge to Power, which has been widely circulated in Oregon.

I support HB 4080 because it makes a significant contribution toward moving to a zero carbon electricity grid. The bill does this by making small, plug-in solar panels legal and practical across Oregon. The bill limits the ability of utilities to block the installation of these new devices, protects renters by prohibiting landlords from restricting their installation (absent safety concerns), and overrides any private HOA or condo rules that might block installation.

Importantly, the bill explicitly allows, but does not require, net metering, provided that the new devices follow existing net metering rules. This is very important. Including balcony solar devices in the net metering law means that these devices can contribute to balancing power on the larger electricity grid; ultimately, with enough new installation the new devices will contribute to cost savings associated with a lower need to build new transmission lines and large centralized power plants. But if any consumer does not want to deal with the implementation of net metering, they do not need to do so. Thus, the red tape needed to get into the net metering system need not be an impediment for new adopters.

These small balcony solar units are also far less expensive than rooftop solar and allow consumers to recover their initial costs in a much shorter period of time.

This bill is great as it stands, and perhaps going forward the legislature might also look at providing (means tested) purchase incentives, as a way of driving more adoption.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of HB 4080.