

Submitter:

Brian Ettling

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4080

Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Gamba and Levy and Members of the Committee:
my name is Brian Ettling. For the last 9 years, my wife and I live in outer northeast Portland in an apartment complex.

For many years, I dreamed of living at a location where I could have solar panels on my roof generating some if not most of the electricity that we use. I like the apartment complex where I live. They are very quick at fixing maintenance issues in our apartment. But, my apartment complex is owned by a large corporation that is not interested nor has any financial incentives to put solar panels on the roofs our apartment buildings. It's sad because I have a perfectly exposed south facing roof that would be ideal installing solar panels.

This is why I love balcony solar. It will help renters like me. If you fully support it and fight hard to pass it, you would be following the lead of the Utah Legislature that it passed unanimously in 2025 with very strong Republican and Democratic support.

Plug-in solar opens solar to over 70% of us Oregonians who can't benefit from rooftop solar today, such as renters and homeowners who can't afford rooftop or have shady or unsuitable roofs. Even more, passing this bill would be a cushion against rising electric bills in Oregon.

This bill could make solar more widely available, push down the costs, and make solar even more affordable for Oregon homeowners.

If you support this bill and pass it, it will remind me of one of the happiest songs from my teenage years from way back in 1986, 40 years ago! The song was "The future's so bright, I gotta wear shades."

Thank you for your time!