



www.RogueClimate.org || PO Box 1980, Phoenix, OR 97535 || 541-301-9204

Coos Bay Office: 243 S. 2nd St. Coos Bay, OR 97420 || 541-816-0758

Re: Rogue Climate Testimony regarding HB 4080

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

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of HB 4080.

Rogue Climate's mission is to empower Southern Oregon communities most impacted by climate change, including low-income, rural, youth, seniors, and communities of color, to win climate justice by organizing for clean energy, sustainable jobs, and a healthy environment.

Plug-in solar, also known as balcony solar, is a low-cost way for homeowners and renters to access renewable energy and reduce their everyday energy costs. Plug-in solar costs around [\\$400–\\$2,000](#), depending on the size of the system compared to rooftop solar installations that can cost tens of thousands of dollars. Balcony solar has taken off in Europe, with around 550,000 balcony solar systems installed in Germany resulting in an [added 200 MW](#) to the grid.

Oregon households are hitting their limit with utility costs, as evidenced by the state's largest for-profit utilities raising residential billing rates by nearly 50% since 2021 and our two largest electric utilities disconnecting a record-breaking nearly 58,000 households last year. A [2024 ACEEE study](#) found that households that identify as low-income, African American, Latina/o/x, or Native are more likely to be energy burdened and face a higher energy burden than the average household. Households in rural communities are also more likely to be energy burdened, with [30-39% of households](#) in Jackson and Coos county facing severe energy burdens while also earning [less than \\$15,060 per year](#).

As extreme weather events become more common, families in Southern Oregon and the South Coast are increasingly burdened by high energy costs, highlighting the urgent need for affordable, climate-resilient solutions. Rural and coastal communities are experiencing more frequent and severe grid disruptions. The main drivers are the increased occurrence and severity of natural disasters like wildfires, extreme weather, and the threat of tsunamis and earthquakes; and unprecedented load growth on the state's grid from energy intensive users like data centers. Communities in the Rogue Valley experience rolling blackouts due to snow and ice, stranding community members without heating and electricity during hazardous conditions. In the summer of 2024, Pacific Power's shut offs left residents without power for days during extreme heat and wildfire smoke. Plug-in solar is disconnected from the grid and can power standard



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household appliances directly, enabling homeowners and renters to have an emergency backup source of power for unexpected outages.

With federal attacks continuing to change the energy landscape constantly, it is more important than ever that Oregon takes efficient near-term actions while investing in the long-term vision of a just energy transition. We are at a critical turning point to ensure that Oregon isn't falling behind on meeting renewable energy goals and keeping energy affordable for every Oregonian. Plug-in solar does just that by expanding how many families can access the affordability and resilience benefits of renewable energy. Please vote yes in support of HB 4080.

Sincerely,

Jess Grady-Benson, Organizing Director
Zoe Serrano, Legislative Coordinator