



February 6, 2026

House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment

900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301
Subject: Support for House Bill 4080

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

The City of Portland Bureau of Planning & Sustainability supports House Bill 4080 that advances small portable solar photovoltaic energy devices, commonly referred to as "balcony solar" or "plug-in solar."

The City of Portland has adopted goals and commitments toward decarbonization and climate action, including the Portland Climate Emergency Workplan¹ and Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund (PCEF) Climate Investment Plan². Small portable solar devices can play an important role in helping Portlanders meet our climate and energy goals, specifically the objective to have two percent community ownership of renewable energy generation assets in Portland by 2030 and 10% by 2050³.

House Bill 4080 presents an opportunity to accelerate an affordable, easy-to-install, and portable way for Oregonians to locally generate their own renewable energy. These plug in systems cost significantly less than rooftop solar, do not require complex installation or utility interconnection, and can help bring

¹ <https://www.portland.gov/bps/climate-action/climate-emergency/climate-emergency-workplan>

² <https://www.portland.gov/bps/cleanenergy/climate-investment-plan>

³ <https://www.portland.gov/policies/environment-natural/climate-change/enn-508-establish-goal-meet-100-community-wide-energy>



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the benefits of solar energy to a broader audience, including renters and residents in multifamily buildings. Importantly, balcony solar can help offset daily electricity consumption and reduce peak energy demand to address the growing energy affordability crisis. The technology to enable the safe and effective use of these small solar arrays is well-proven, with over a million of these installations around Europe in Germany, Italy, Austria, and the Netherlands. In those markets, small plug-in systems, including battery backup, are available at hardware stores as a standard consumer product. Last year, the state of Utah passed legislation allowing these plug-in systems, and similar legislation is being considered in other states this year as a common-sense solution to allow greater energy independence. Oregonians now have the opportunity to join this growing movement.

House Bill 4080 imagines a thoughtful path forward for this emissions-free energy technology in Oregon by ensuring it is vetted through established safety pathways, like the Underwriters Laboratories, and governed with oversight from the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services. Additionally, the bill addresses potential liability concerns for utilities and property owners by establishing parameters for installations, requirements for shutoff standards and indemnity clauses.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. We appreciate your consideration of these comments and urge you to support House Bill 4080 to advance “plug-in solar” in Oregon.

Sincerely,



Eric Engstrom, Director
Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

