

Submitter: Cindy Bethell
On Behalf Of: HB 4080
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or HB4080
Topic:

We have an opportunity to advance an emerging technology in the form of small, low cost, portable, and safe solar energy systems, popularly known as Balcony Solar and Plug-In Solar. This technology has a high level of popular support. Benefits of widespread adoption of these systems include,

- reducing the load on the grid
- reducing consumers' electricity bills
- Increasing public participation in the transition to renewable energy

I would like to emphasize that HB 4080 considers the interests of the multiple stakeholders: protection for public safety, protection for electrical workers, protection for utilities.

It is important to understand that the passage of HB 4080 does not allow consumers permissive use prior to the release of the necessary code updates to insure public safety. Rather, HB 4080 establishes the statutory framework as a first step in the normal, proven process of code development appropriate for any new technology. Underwriters Laboratories has released a preliminary version of the UL3700 standard that will be applicable to these solar systems. There will be future revisions to the Oregon building codes that will be consistent with this product standard and with updates to the National Electric Code. This process will take time and HB 4080 is only the beginning step in the adoption of this new technology.