

Chair Lively, Vice Chair Gamba, Vice Chair Levy, and Members of the House Committee on Climate Energy and Environment:

I strongly support HB 4080, and I urge you to vote YES on this bill to make it easier for Oregonians to install plug-in or balcony solar panels.

Portable solar photovoltaic energy devices:

- are affordable for Oregonians who aren't able to pay for rooftop solar panels, and available for those who want to reduce their energy costs but don't own a house that can accommodate solar panels, or rent an apartment;
- are portable, so renters can take them when they move;
- can be installed in many locations – such as backyards, on mobile homes, porches, balconies, or fences – making them available to far more Oregonians;
- can help Oregon reach its goals of transitioning to renewable energy sources.

HB 4080 is an affordable way consumers can contribute to the goal of reducing reliance on fossil fuels for energy needs, and at the same time, benefit from slightly lower energy costs.

Twenty years ago, I had the good fortune to travel in Greece where I saw small solar panels on a huge percentage of homes, on their rooftop patios or balconies. It was impressive. I have spent 20 years trying to understand why it is so difficult to do the same thing in the U.S.

Well, truth be told, I understand how powerful the fossil fuel industry is in lobbying against anything that might take even a tiny cut out of their enormous profits. But we can and we must overcome that obstacle. Oregonians are facing rising power costs and our planet is facing rising temperatures. It's time to pull out all the stops and this bill is one piece of the solution.

Please vote YES and pass HB 4080 out of your committee, and urge your colleagues to vote YES when it gets to the House and Senate floors. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Debi Ferrer
The Dalles, OR