Submitter:	Helena Birecki
On Behalf Of:	
Committee:	House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	HB4080

Dear House Committee on Climate Energy and Environment,

I think HB 4080 is a good idea-- I am very much in favor of the option of plug-in solar. While rooftop solar can produce more energy, small plug-in solar systems still allow renters and households without appropriate roofs for rooftop solar to produce some of their own energy. Millions of apartments in Germany have plug-in solar on their balconies and Utah just passed a bill to allow it. I also heard that there's a pilot project with PGE allowing plug-in solar including net metering, and some participants are placing panels in their backyards with excellent sun exposure.

I was extremely surprised to see IBEW locals and fire chiefs opposed. I was relieved to see that-- according to the testimony of ZERO Coalition (a statewide alliance committed to advancing clean, efficient, and equitable buildings in Oregon whose membership includes architects, builders, policymakers, utilities, non-profits, and industry stakeholders)-- the safety issues that the unions and fire chiefs brought up are already being addressed.

Quoting from ZERO Coalition's public testimony on this bill:

"1. Safety Concerns Are Being Addressed
Opponents raise concerns about fire hazards, electrical shocks, and backfeeding. HB 4080 does not preclude safety, it only allows UL-listed systems installed per National Electrical Code (NEC) standards and Oregon-specific code requirements.
? Backfeeding risks are minimal for UL-certified systems. Built-in safety devices, combined with code-compliant installation, prevent significant hazard.
? Daisy chaining or circuit overload is a concern in any electrical system. Code provisions will include limits and requirements for dedicated circuits to mitigate risk.
? Emergency egress and fire access: Panels are small, lightweight, and portable. Installation guidelines will ensure balconies remain clear and safe for fire fighters and residents.

It is important to note that similar concerns exist for common household appliances, EV chargers, and portable generators, yet all are safely permitted under codes and standards. Balcony solar is no different and can be safely integrated using established electrical safety frameworks. Indeed, the bigger risk is not allowing regulators to develop safety standards, which will in turn lead to unsanctioned system installation as this product becomes available in neighboring states."

Thank you for your consideration, and let's make affordable solar power even more accessible!

--Helena Birecki