

Testimony in Support of HB 3653| Rep B. Levy

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

For the record, my name is Representative Bobby Levy, and I proudly represent House District 58, which includes Umatilla, Union, and Wallowa Counties.

I'm here today in strong support of HB 3653, a bill that modernizes and improves Oregon's voluntary Energy Savings Performance Contracting (ESPC) program—a program that's already saving public agencies money across the state.

By leveraging ESPCs, school districts, cities, and counties have been able to make essential energy retrofits and building control upgrades—without upfront capital. These improvements have led to thousands in savings on energy bills, allowing more of our public dollars to be invested back into education, services, and local priorities.

HB 3653 makes this existing program more flexible, strategic, and impactful. It allows public agencies to take a longer-term approach to facility improvements, which are often delayed due to budget constraints. Just as importantly, this bill updates the definition of cost-effectiveness. Instead of focusing only on short-term energy savings, it takes a more holistic view—considering avoided maintenance costs, capital renewal needs, and total cost of ownership. This provides agencies with a clearer picture of the long-term value of these upgrades and empowers them to make smarter decisions.

It's also critical to note: HB 3653 is not a mandate. It respects local control, giving public agencies and school districts the ability to choose what works best for them. This bill simply removes unnecessary steps and red tape, making an already useful tool even better—thanks to collaboration with industry voices and energy experts.

This is a smart, cost-saving improvement to an existing program that's already working. Let's make it more accessible, more flexible, and more effective for the communities that need it most.

I respectfully ask for your support of HB 3653. Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bobby Levy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping underline.

Bobby Levy, House District 58