

Testimony in Support of HB 3539 | 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 to express my support for HB 3539, which directs the Environmental Quality Commission—or DEQ at its direction—to contract with a third party to study and determine a greenhouse gas emissions factor for electricity purchased from unspecified sources.

Or, in layman's terms, this bill allows the EQC to hire an independent expert to measure the pollution tied to electricity.

Ultimately, this bill ensures that our emissions reporting system is grounded in data, transparency, and fairness. As Oregon continues to pursue aggressive climate and energy goals, we must be careful not to place undue burdens on utilities or consumers—especially in rural areas—based on outdated or inaccurate assumptions. HB 3539 helps modernize the way we evaluate emissions from unspecified electricity sources, making the process more reliable and consistent across the board.

Importantly, the bill requires that the study be updated at least once every five years, ensuring that we're adapting as technology, energy markets, and generation sources evolve. The rule updates required by January 1, 2027, provide a clear and responsible timeline to align our regulatory system with the best available data.

HB 3539 is a smart, measured approach to ensuring Oregon's climate policy is built on accurate information and long-term accountability. I urge your support.

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 horizontal stroke at the end.

Bobby Levy, House District 58