

Senate Transportation & Energy

04/13/2026

SB26-148 Financing Utility On-Bill Repayment Program

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Desirae Parker For themselves	<p>Dear Chair and members of the committee,</p> <p>My name is Desi Parker. I live in Monte Vista, which is in the San Luis Valley, one of the most economically disadvantaged communities in the state.</p> <p>Most families in my area cannot afford to upgrade to energy-saving appliances out of pocket.</p> <p>When a furnace, water heater, or cooling system needs to be replaced, it's not a planned expense. It's urgent. And for many households, especially in rural communities or for families already stretched thin, coming up with thousands of dollars upfront just isn't possible.</p> <p>So what happens? People delay upgrades. They patch old systems together. Or they replace equipment with the cheapest option available, even if it's less efficient and more expensive to run in the long term.</p> <p>That keeps energy bills higher month after month, and it hits the same families the hardest.</p> <p>SB26-148 offers a practical way out of that cycle.</p> <p>On-Bill Repayment allows people to make those upgrades without needing a large upfront payment. Instead, they can repay the cost over time through their utility bill. That makes the decision manageable.</p> <p>It also matters that this program doesn't rely on traditional credit scores. Many rural and underserved families get shut out of financing,</p>

	<p>even when they consistently pay their bills. Using utility payment history is a much more realistic and fair way to determine eligibility.</p> <p>This is about access.</p> <p>Access to more efficient equipment. Access to lower monthly energy costs over time, and access to a financing tool that actually works for people who are usually left out.</p> <p>Over time, these upgrades help stabilize energy bills and protect households from rising costs. That’s not just good for families, it’s good for the overall energy system.</p> <p>This bill also uses existing funds in a smart way by putting unclaimed property dollars to work, attracting additional private investment, and ensuring those dollars continue to circulate and benefit more people.</p> <p>At the end of the day, this is about giving people a realistic path to make the upgrades they already need, without putting them in a financial hole to do it.</p> <p>I hope you’ll support SB26-148.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my thoughts.</p>
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