



February 22, 2023

House Committee on Education Oregon  
State Capitol 900 Court St. NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301  
Re: HB 3014- Support

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Hudson and Wright, and Members of the Committee,

The Environmental Center is a regional nonprofit working to embed sustainability into daily life based in Central Oregon. I am here to voice our strong support for HB 3014 to provide flexibility in school transportation funding.

Transportation in schools is an important issue to tackle for a number of reasons. Transportation emissions make up 40 percent of Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions, School transportation has an important impact on local transportation stress, and how kids get to school can shape their health and transportation choices as they grow up.

We see solutions in the transportation sector as needing to reduce the amount we need to drive and electrify the vehicles that remain. Through the last two years we have been working on the "Electric Bus Learning Project" and have been able to work to support our school districts in Oregon as they explore shifting their school buses to cleaner, and healthier electric options.

Through this work we have seen how challenging it can be for district staff to make important decisions and to be able to focus on transportation options for their students beyond a narrow definition of school bus transportation. Shifting to biking, walking, or rolling, has a myriad of benefits from building stronger community connections, reducing climate and air pollution, increasing physical activity and more. When the travel modes are ingrained into daily habits at a young age, we are instilling the value it brings to our lives, and the understanding that you don't need to rely on a car for every single trip you make.

Supporting HB 3014 would be an important step to allow school districts to help support options to get to school that can reduce cost, build healthy habits, reduce climate impact, and thriving communities across the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Neil Baunsgard  
The Environmental Center  
16 NW Kansas Ave  
Bend, OR 97703  
[Neil@Envirocenter.org](mailto:Neil@Envirocenter.org)