

Submitter: D Torres  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2945  
Chair & Committee Members,

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB 2945.

While I understand the majority leadership in legislature is extremely focused on an expensive GREEN energy agenda they wish to impose on all Oregonians and their children, regardless of affordability and sensibility, Oregonians deserve better concentration from legislature whose priority should be to create legislation that actually helps Oregonian's bottom line financially, considerations to the safety of their children and enact legislation that actually follows PROVEN SCIENCE and FACT, not to create frivolous mandates that do the opposite..

Some facts for you to consider before enacting MANDATES on our rural communities and their children's transportation needs:

FACT: Purchase Price DOES NOT EQUAL Cost.

While two buses may have an equal sticker price, the total cost of ownership is far from equal. Electric school buses often require:

- o Major investments in charging infrastructure
- o Upgrades to electrical systems at bus yards
- o Training for mechanics and drivers
- o Additional staffing or contracts for maintenance

These hidden costs can add tens or even hundreds of thousands of dollars — far outweighing any sticker price parity.

FACT: Infrastructure Isn't Ready Yet

Many districts — especially rural and lower-income ones — simply do not have the charging infrastructure or grid capacity needed to operate electric buses reliably. Mandating a purchase without ensuring that the infrastructure is funded and in place puts districts in a bind.

It's like buying a plane without an airport to land it.

FACT: One-Size-Fits-All Mandates Hurt Local Flexibility

School districts know their own needs best. For some, zero-emission buses may be a smart investment. For others — particularly those with long routes, steep terrain, or

extreme weather — diesel or hybrid buses may currently be the more reliable and practical choice.

Local transportation decisions should be based on readiness, safety, and service delivery, not arbitrary mandates.

**FACT: Long-Term Viability Should Drive Policy — Not Political Appearances**  
Mandating purchases based on upfront cost alone ignores the long-term sustainability of the fleet. Without reliable charging infrastructure, technical support, and predictable performance in all conditions, these mandates could actually disrupt service — and ultimately hurt students.

We need smart, data-driven policy — not box-checking requirements

**FACT: Better Alternatives Exist**

Instead of mandates, let's provide:

- o Incentives for districts ready to adopt electric buses
- o Grants and funding to build infrastructure before requiring adoption
- o Pilot programs that gather real-world data to inform future regulation

These options would foster innovation without punishing unprepared districts.

It's time to stop these GREEN WOKE POLITICAL MANDATES! Taxpayers who elect you to office do so to help the people in this state, not destroy the economy with such an extreme agenda that places our rural communities and their children in dire circumstances regarding safety. Taxpayers in this state just cannot afford EXPENSIVE FRIVULOUS MANDATES like this!.

**VOTE NO!**