

Submitter: Denice Searcy
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2945
NO on HB 2945

This act is a blatant waste of taxpayer money and fiscally irresponsible. It establishes the state policy on the purchase of new zero – emission school buses. The leadership seems to want to throw kids under the bus. This bill puts rural children at risk in rural areas with mountainous, terrain, and long, snowy winters. And these regions, the typical electric buses range is often insufficient to hold a charge. Cold weather can reduce the range of electric buses by up to 25 to 35% due to the energy required to maintain battery and cabin temperatures, as well as the reduced efficiency of battery reactions in cold conditions.

The environmental quality of air is not the same and wide – open areas of rural Oregon and there isn't the need to lump rural Oregon with the needs of Metro congestion.

Electric buses and the required infrastructure also pose significant financial challenges. One electric school bus can cost upwards of \$400,000, with an additional \$30,000 per bus for necessary, charging infrastructure. These costs can be prohibitive for many school districts, especially in the rural areas. This bill borders on the ridiculous, and is a complete waste of taxpayer money.

Spend the money on teaching reading, writing, math, real history and civics since Oregon ranks number 49 in proficiency testing.

Please vote NO on HB 2945