

# Testimony to the Joint Transportation Committee

## Support for HB 2945 – The Zero-Emission School Bus Act

April 15, 2025

Dear Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain, Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Pat DeLaquil. I am an energy system modeler and climate policy analyst, and I organize with **MCAT** (Mobilizing Climate Action Together), a community of volunteers working on advancing a healthy climate and a green economy for future generations.

I urge you to support HB 2945, which will accelerate Oregon's transition to zero-emission school buses. This bill is a common-sense and urgently needed investment in the health of our children, the air we breathe, and the future we are building for Oregon.

EV School Buses are a good investment because:

- They have a predictable daily load cycle, and a centralized charging location, so don't need any external infrastructure.
- Electrifying school buses eliminates dangerous diesel exhaust pollutants – known carcinogens and major contributors to asthma, bronchitis, and other respiratory issues – from our children's daily environment.
- EV are how we decarbonize our transportation sector, and school buses are one of the early niche markets, just like delivery vehicles, garbage trucks, tractors, etc.
- EVs grow Oregon's clean energy economy, with good-paying jobs in vehicle manufacturing, charging infrastructure deployment, and long-term maintenance.

HB 2945 is Smart Policy with a Long-Term Payoffs. It only requires a transition when the total cost — including grants and rebates — is at parity with traditional diesel models.

Finally, I strongly support HB 2945's focus on equity. Focused funding for disproportionately impacted communities is needed to ensure the health and climate benefits of the clean energy transition.

HB 2945 is a moral imperative. It's about protecting our kids. It's about making communities healthier. It's about investing in the jobs of the future. And it's about building a clean, just transportation system for all Oregonians.

I urge you to support HB 2945 and to prioritize zero-emission transportation investments as part of Oregon's broader transportation funding package.

Dr. Pat DeLaquil  
Gresham, OR

