

Submitter: Laurie Dougherty

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2945

Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain, Co-Vice Chairs Starr and Boshart Davis, and members of the Joint Committee on Transportation, my name is Laurie Dougherty and I live in Salem. I support HB 2945 to replace diesel powered school buses with zero-emission vehicles.

Diesel exhaust is a carcinogen and also contributes to asthma and other respiratory illnesses. Children are especially vulnerable to these conditions, yet if they ride school buses, they are exposed to diesel exhaust on a daily basis. Diesel exhaust also contains greenhouse gases which contribute to climate change.

Transportation is the biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Oregon and diesel used in heavy vehicles like school buses is part of that problem. Transitioning school bus fleets to electric buses will help Oregon meet our greenhouse gas reduction goals as well as improving air quality and public health by reducing toxic pollution. Furthermore, zero emission electric buses are less expensive to fuel and maintain than diesel buses, saving money for school districts over the life of the vehicle.

I urge you to vote Yes on HB 2945. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.