

Submitter:

Mark Puhlman

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB2945

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

I urge you to support HB 2945 and the -1 Amendment, accelerating 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.

Protecting Oregon Kids from Toxic Diesel Pollution

Every day, more than 300,000 Oregon children ride school buses. Many of those buses run on diesel — a known carcinogen and a major contributor to asthma, bronchitis, and other respiratory issues. Children are especially vulnerable to the impacts of diesel exhaust because their lungs are still developing, and they breathe more air per pound of body weight than adults. Zero-emission school buses offer a safer alternative. They eliminate harmful tailpipe emissions, ensuring kids can get to and from school without being exposed to pollution that harms their health and learning potential.

Tackling Oregon's Top Source of Climate Pollution

Transportation remains Oregon's largest source of climate pollution, responsible for over 40% of our total greenhouse gas emissions. Electrifying our school bus fleets is critical in decarbonizing this sector and aligning with Oregon's climate goals. Oregon has taken bold action in the past to cut pollution from cars and trucks — from adopting the Advanced Clean Trucks Rule to supporting investments through the Climate Protection Program. HB 2945 is a forward-thinking solution that aligns with our climate commitments, keeps momentum, and builds on our progress.

Driving Clean Energy Jobs and Community Resilience

Electrifying school buses doesn't just reduce emissions — it also grows Oregon's clean energy economy. Investing in zero-emission vehicles supports good-paying jobs in vehicle manufacturing, charging infrastructure deployment, utility planning, and long-term maintenance. It also helps build smarter, more resilient energy systems. Planning for charging infrastructure encourages local energy innovation and enhances grid flexibility — especially when paired with smart charging and vehicle-to-grid capabilities.

Smart Policy with Long-Term Payoffs

This bill only requires a transition when the total cost — including grants and rebates — is paralleled with traditional diesel models. HB 2945 ensures Oregon is ready to

seize the moment.

HB 2945 is not just a smart climate policy — it's 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 transportation system for all Oregonians.

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

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to a healthier, more sustainable Oregon.

Sincerely

Dr. Mark Puhlman DNP

Lake Oswego Sustainability Network Board Member

Lake Oswego Sustainability Advisory Board Member

Citizen of the Earth and father to five children and Grandfather to 4