

Co-chairs Gorsek and McLain and Members of the Committee:

My name is John Christensen, and I'm a family forest owner in Corbett. I strongly support HB 2945, because diesel-powered school buses are a source of harmful emissions, not only the greenhouse gas emissions that worsen climate change, but also because diesel emissions are a known carcinogen and a major contributor to asthma, bronchitis, and other respiratory issues. This is especially a problem for rural school districts such as Corbett's, which have many miles daily of school bus routes with their cumulative emissions. We know that children especially are vulnerable to the health effects of diesel emissions. This shift to electric buses will save school districts money. Over a bus's lifetime, electric buses cost significantly less to fuel and maintain than diesel buses, yielding taxpayer savings while also improving air quality for students. In addition to supporting HB 2945, I urge you to prioritize \$30 million/year into the MHD ZEV Rebate Program and \$10 million/year for charging infrastructure to ensure school districts and other public fleets can plan with certainty. I urge you to support HB 2945 and to prioritize zero-emission transportation investments as part of Oregon's broader transportation funding package.