

Dear Joint Committee on Transportation,

I live about a block from a grade school in southeast Portland, and every morning around 8 AM my neighborhood is filled with children on their way to school--on bicycles, on foot, in their parents' cars, and in school buses. It does my heart good to see them, but I know that if they are to have any hope of growing up into a world that is not disrupted more than it already is by climate change, then we, their elders, must end our burning of fossil fuels immediately--not at some ill-defined future time. Each of us must do all we can to assure their future, which is why I recently replaced my gas furnace with an electric heat pump and installed solar panels on my roof. You can help as well by approving HB 2945 to move from gasoline- and diesel-powered buses to electric school buses. We should have done this years ago. The technology is now available, and the need is urgent. This bill incentivizes replacing carbon-dioxide-producing vehicles with electric-powered ones. It's a small but immediate step in the right direction, which is why I support it. It will benefit all of us, but especially those children who have not created this mess, but who will bear the consequences. Please adopt HB 2945.

Thank you for your consideration,

Gary Reiness