

Submitter: Cheryl Conway

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2945

Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain, Members of the Joint Transportation Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in strong support of HB 2945 and -1, which will accelerate Oregon's transition to zero-emission school buses.

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. I road a bus to school for 12 years five days a week. during an era when nobody worried about the health of us exposed to diesel fumes. We now know children are especially vulnerable to harm from diesel engine emissions so we must begin the transition to zero-emission school buses. HB 2945-1 provides grants and rebates so that school systems can afford the initial extra costs for acquisition and training. Not only will their kids suffer less harm riding a bus to school every day, but, over time, these buses will require less maintenance and last longer, saving taxpayers money.

This bill makes sense and takes us a step closer to improving the health of our children, the air we breathe, and the future we are building for Oregon. Please provide full funding for HB 2945-1.

Thank you for the work you do for us.

Respectfully,
Cheryl Conway
Astoria, Oregon