

Submitter:

Russell Kautz

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Joint Committee On Transportation

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB2945

Vote NO!! This bill puts rural children at risk in rural areas with mountainous terrain and long, snowy winters. In these regions, the typical electric bus's range is often insufficient to hold a charge. Cold weather can reduce the range of electric buses by up to 25-35% due to the energy required to maintain battery and cabin temperatures, as well as the reduced efficiency of battery reactions in cold conditions.

The environmental quality of air is not the same in wide-open areas of rural Oregon and there isn't the need to lump rural Oregon with the needs of metro congestion.

Electric buses and the required infrastructure also pose significant financial challenges. One electric school bus can cost upwards of \$400,000, with an additional \$30,000 per bus for necessary charging infrastructure. These costs can be prohibitive for many school districts, especially those in rural areas.