



April 17th, 2025

Senator Gorsek, Co-Chair
Representative McLain, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Transportation
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

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

My name is Neil Baungard, and I work at The Environmental Center in Central Oregon. In our efforts to mitigate the environmental impact of our transportation systems, we view electric school buses (ESBs) as a significant opportunity. That's why we strongly support HB 2945.

From 2021 to 2023, I co-coordinated the Oregon Electric School Bus Learning Project, a statewide initiative aimed at helping school districts learn about and consider the adoption of electric school buses. Through this project, we hosted online trainings, provided direct support to school districts, and led an electric school bus tour across Oregon. We met with over a dozen districts, offering them the chance to experience riding in an all-electric bus firsthand.

Watching transportation directors, mechanics, and bus drivers get the opportunity to drive an ESB for the first time was amazing. They had reasonable concerns about range, power, and something that feels very new. I wish I had a video of all of these test drives, because once they drove the bus, you could see them "get it" and want to learn more. These buses are quiet, clean, and emit no tailpipe pollution. They represent a healthier future for our children—one without lines of idling diesel buses in front of schools, polluting the air they breathe.

HB 2945 provides a clear framework and direction to support the continued rollout of electric school buses in Oregon. This is a long-term transition, and policies like this are essential steps toward protecting both our environment and our children's health.

I respectfully urge you to support HB 2945 to help get more clean, electric buses on the road, thank you for your time and consideration,

Neil Baungard
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