



February 20, 2023

House Committee on Education
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301
Re: HB 3014- Support

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Hudson and Wright, and Members of the Committee,

Climate Solutions is a regional non-profit working to accelerate clean energy solutions to the climate crisis. We write in strong support of HB 3014 for flexible school transportation funding.

The transportation sector makes up 40 percent of Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions. To reduce our emissions in the transportation sector and improve air quality, the two prong solution requires us to not only shift our vehicles to all electric but also, equally important, is to reduce overall car trips by shifting to alternative modes of transportation. However, in order to make biking, walking and rolling just as easy as getting into a car, we need to prioritize funding those alternative transportation options.

For far too long we have been disproportionately funding transportation infrastructure that supports vehicles even though they produce many negative externalities such as being more expensive to own and operate ([the average American spends about \\$10,000 on transportation costs per year](#)), vehicles aren't accessible to many people who cannot or are unable to drive, they cause traffic death and injuries, and they pollute our air and environment, yet we accept this as our status quo. Shifting to biking, walking, or rolling, has a myriad of benefits from building stronger community connections, reducing climate and air pollution, increasing physical activity and more. When the travel modes are ingrained into daily habits at a young age, we are instilling the value it brings to our lives, and the understanding that you don't need to rely on a car for every single trip you make. With the help of federal infrastructure funds, school districts around the country will start shifting their school buses from diesel to electric, and investing in multi modal transportation options for the children of Oregon is something we can do now to ensure we are prioritizing equitable mobility for all, getting the next generation excited about walking, rolling, and biking, and building a more cohesive and friendly community.

Supporting the passage of 3014 is crucial not just for young Oregonians, but for building more thriving and healthy communities across the state. We urge you to support HB 3014 and thank you for your time and consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Victoria Paykar
Oregon Transportation Policy Manager | Climate Solutions