



PO Box 14822
Portland, OR 97239
503.222.1963
OEOnline.org | @OEOnline

**Testimony to the House Committee on Education
on House Bill 3014**

February 20, 2023

**Jacqui Treiger, Campaign Manager: Climate and Transportation
Oregon Environmental Council**

Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative and equitable solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Hudson and Wright, and members of the committee,

I am writing in support of HB 3014 which will increase the flexibility for localized student transportation solutions.

The transportation sector makes up 40% of Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions. To meet Oregon's climate goals and improve air quality, it is important that we reduce emissions by both electrifying the vehicles on the road and reducing the overall vehicle miles traveled. Thanks to federal infrastructure funds, school districts around the country will start replacing their diesel school buses with electric ones. It will take time for this transition, but we can start reducing these miles now by investing in other modes of transportation.

Having a reliable way to get to school is critical for all students' success. Shifting the mode to public transit, biking, walking, or rolling fosters community connections, provides physical activity, and lowers climate and air pollution. Building daily habits outside of car trips in our children's lives creates familiarity and comfort with these modes so they know they have options to turn to other than a car. 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.

We urge you to pass HB3014 and to invest in healthier and more connected communities across the state. Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Jacqui Treiger
Campaign Manager: Climate and Transportation
Oregon Environmental Council
jacquit@oeonline.org