

Submitter: Chris Evans
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure: HB3014

Dear Representatives,

My name is Chris Evans and I am a parent of two young children in beautiful La Grande. I was raised here myself, where I walked to elementary school and generally enjoyed safe streets for doing so.

I am writing to express strong support of HB3014. This bill restores local control to school districts in how they get students to school. Under current law, if a school needs something as simple as a crossing guard for kids to cross a busy street so they can walk to school—districts cannot get reimbursed for this expense.

HB3014 impacts rural communities as well as urban. There are busy roads, highways and railways students must cross if they are to walk or ride to school. Currently this is a barrier for a lot of families. Did you know that some parents in Baker City essentially charter a bus for their public school children to get to school? The students live too close to school to utilize the “yellow bus” yet it is unsafe to walk or ride a bike on their own and cross busy roads and a commercial highway to get to school without assistance. HB 3014 would allow schools to consider a new set of tools that can help students get to school safely—and more cost effectively too!

This bill really is good policy. I ask that you support and pass HB 3014 without delay.

Sincerely,
Chris Evans