

July 26, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Room S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Room S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell,

We, the undersigned organizations, representing millions of members and companies, strongly support ensuring that the full \$7.5 billion in school bus funding goes towards school districts to purchase electric school buses and install the necessary charging infrastructure, as laid out in the [memo by Brian Deese](#) explaining the Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework. The 475,000 school buses that carry 25 million children to school every day are some of the oldest technology on the road. Due to their short routes, school buses are frequently on the road for 15-20 years. Diesel exhaust is a known carcinogen which directly and disproportionately impacts the kids and drivers of these buses. Reduced pollution from bus emissions has been shown to decrease incidences of [asthma, bronchitis, and pneumonia](#) and also [decreases absenteeism](#). Eliminating emissions from buses should have even stronger effects.

Fortunately, electric school buses are available from several domestic manufacturers and are being integrated into school bus fleets across the country. The significant investment that the government is planning to make in school buses is critical and 100% of this funding should be spent to help school districts to acquire these zero emission technologies. We particularly support ensuring that communities most impacted by air pollution are prioritized in the application process.

We oppose any funding going to fossil fuel buses as these buses do not eliminate tailpipe pollution, CNG and propane buses are already cost competitive with diesel, and all new buses purchased today will be on the road for 15-20 years, thus ensuring long term dependence on fossil fuels. The [news story](#) that broke last night shows that the bipartisan group of Senators working on this legislation is planning to use half of the school bus money to buy new fossil fuel buses for school districts, which undermines our climate goals and doesn't support the growth of the domestic EV bus industry. As the climate crisis is worsening, and our kids are breathing polluted air, we need to rapidly transition to electric buses. The government's role is to help in that transition. Even allowing one third of these funds to purchase buses that run on CNG, propane, and biofuels (which are blended in small volumes into gasoline and diesel) would [lock in up to 7.5 billion tons of greenhouse gas emissions, up to 88 billion pounds of carbon monoxide pollution, and up to 12.5 million pounds of NOx](#), not to mention installing fueling infrastructure that will be stranded assets as these school districts move to electrification down the road.

Please ensure that all federal funding for school buses is for electric buses that will both mitigate climate change and reduce dangerous air pollution. We have an opportunity to invest in a domestic industry, promote more good-paying jobs, train more workers to be on the cutting edge of transportation technologies, and reduce asthma attacks and other respiratory ailments for our nation's school children. We sincerely hope that Congress seizes this chance to make a difference and puts \$7.5 billion into electric school buses.

Thank you,

Union of Concerned Scientists
350Brooklyn
350NYC.org
Alliance for Clean Energy New York
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE)
American Federation of Teachers
American Lung Association
AMPLIFY Power
Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America - Michigan Chapter
Boulder Valley School District - Safe Routes Unit
Bus-2-Grid Initiative
CCAN Action Fund
ChargePoint
Chispa Arizona
CHISPA Florida
Chispa LCV
Chispa Nevada
Clean Energy Works
CleanAirNow
CLEER
Climate Hawks Vote
Climate Reality Project
Coltura
Detroitters Working for Environmental Justice
Dream Corps Green For All
Drive Electric RVA
Earthjustice
EcoMadres
Elders Climate Action
Elected Officials to Protect America
Electric Bus Newsletter
Electrification Coalition
Electrify America
Environment America
Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental Law & Policy Center
Evergreen Action
EVgo
EVHybridNoire
Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
Forth

Fresh Energy
Generation180
GreenLatinos
H.A. DeHart & Son
Hoosier Environmental Council
Illinois Environmental Council
Interfaith Power & Light
League of Conservation Voters (LCV)
Lewinsville Faith in Action
LION Electric
Long Island Progressive Coalition
Los Angeles County Electric Truck & Bus Coalition
Los Angeles IBEW 11 & National Electrical Contractors Ass.
Madison Area Bus Advocates
MI Air MI Health
Mi Assoc for Pupil Transportation
Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action
Mobilify Southwestern Pennsylvania
Moms Clean Air Force
Mothers Out Front
National Consumer Law Center
Natural Resources Defense Council
New Urban Mobility Alliance (NUMO)
New York City Environmental Justice Alliance
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
New York League of Conservation Voters
New York Public Interest Research Group
New Yorkers for Clean Power
Pacific Environment
Peoples Climate Movement - NY
Plug In America
Proterra
Raise Green
Respiratory Health Association
Rhombus Energy Solutions, Inc.
Rivian
RMI
Save the Sound
Sierra Club
Sierra Club DC Chapter
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
Southwest Energy Efficiency Project
The Center for Transportation & the Environment (CTE)
The Greater Prince William Climate Action Network

The Mobility House
The Reno + Sparks Chamber of Commerce
Transportation for America
Tri-State Transportation Campaign
U.S. PIRG
Ulupono Initiative
United We Stand of New York
Virginia Conservation Network
Zero Emission Transportation Association

CC:

Members of the Senate
Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Speaker of the House
Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), House Republican Leader
Brian Deese, director of the National Economic Council
Gina McCarthy, White House National Climate Advisor
Ali Zaidi, deputy White House National Climate Advisor
Austin Brown, senior director for transportation, Council on Environmental Quality
Ike Irby, Policy Advisor to the Vice President of the United States