

July 28, 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  
Acadia Center  
Allergy & Asthma Network  
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  
American Thoracic Society  
AMPLY Power  
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health  
Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America - Michigan Chapter  
Azul  
Black Millennials 4 Flint  
Boulder Valley School District - Safe Routes Unit  
Bus-2-Grid Initiative  
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Ceres  
ChargePoint  
Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund  
Children's Environmental Health Network  
Chispa Arizona  
CHISPA Florida  
Chispa LCV  
Chispa Maryland  
Chispa Nevada  
Clean Energy Action  
Clean Energy Works  
CleanAirNow  
CLEER  
Climate for Health, ecoAmerica  
Climate Hawks Vote  
Climate Law & Policy Project  
Climate Reality Project  
Coltura  
Detroitters Working for Environmental Justice  
Dream Corps Green For All  
Drive Electric RVA  
E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs)

Earth Ethics, Inc.  
Earthjustice  
EarthKind Energy Consulting  
EcoMadres  
Elders Climate Action  
Elected Officials to Protect America  
Electric Bus Newsletter  
Electrification Coalition  
Electrify America  
Empower our Future - Colorado  
Environment America  
Environmental Defense Fund  
Environmental Law & Policy Center  
Evergreen Action  
EVgo  
EVHybridNoire  
Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions  
Forth  
Fresh Energy  
Generation180  
Georgia Interfaith Power and Light  
GreenLatinos  
H.A. DeHart & Son  
Health Care Without Harm  
Highland Electric Fleets  
Hoosier Environmental Council  
Illinois Environmental Council  
Indivisible Howard County MD  
Interfaith Power & Light  
League of Conservation Voters (LCV)  
Lewinsville Faith in Action  
The Lion Electric Co.  
Long Island Progressive Coalition  
Los Angeles County Electric Truck & Bus Coalition  
Los Angeles IBEW 11 & National Electrical Contractors Ass.  
Madison Area Bus Advocates  
Maryland Legislative Coalition  
Medical Society Consortium on Climate & Health  
MI Air MI Health  
Mi Assoc for Pupil Transportation  
Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action  
Mobilify Southwestern Pennsylvania  
Moms Clean Air Force  
Mother's & Others For Clean Air

Mothers Out Front  
National Consumer Law Center  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light  
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  
O.U.R.S. (Organized Uplifting Resources & Strategies)  
Pacific Environment  
Peoples Climate Movement - NY  
Plug In America  
Proterra  
Raise Green  
Renew Puerto Rico  
Respiratory Health Association  
Rhombus Energy Solutions, Inc.  
Rivian  
RMI  
Save the Sound  
Sierra Club  
Sierra Club DC Chapter  
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy  
Southern Environmental Law Center  
Southwest Energy Efficiency Project  
The Center for Transportation & the Environment (CTE)  
The Environmental Center  
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 Methodist Women  
United We Stand of New York  
Virginia Conservation Network  
Voices for Progress  
WISE  
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