

August 24, 2023

Hon. Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

RE: New York State Executive Budget FY 2024-25

Dear Governor Hochul:

We are a group of labor unions, representing tens of thousands of New York workers, and united by our commitment to transitioning to clean transportation that centers workers and communities.

We write today to express our appreciation for your continued commitment to the concerns of working people and the climate crisis' impact on many communities. We are particularly optimistic about the remedial and transformative potential of the **Green Transit, Green Jobs bill (S6089 & A6414)**. **We respectfully request your consideration to include the Green Transit Green Jobs bill in the 2024-2025 Executive Budget in order to address some of our most urgent climate, labor and workforce development concerns.**

Gov. Hochul, you have been a strong ally for working families, unions and systemically underserved New York state residents. Your support of S.5994C/A.1338C, for example, established a registration system for contractors and subcontractors to better enforce existing labor law and regulations. We applaud your leadership to “ensure transparency, reduce fraud and ensure taxpayer money goes to contractors who treat their workers with dignity and respect.”¹

With the Green Transit, Green Jobs bill (GT, GJ), New York State can also use the power of our public dollars to invest in a fair, climate-safe economy that encourages manufacturers to provide good wages, benefits and training to their workers. The GT, GJ maximizes the benefits of government spending by ensuring that the transition to zero-emission buses contributes to quality green job creation and improves contract accountability.

We support the GT,GJ bill's strong labor provisions that create safeguards to protect existing workers during this transition and encourage good manufacturing jobs through:

- The US Jobs Plan incentivizes bidders to “compete up” by earning extra credit for good wages, benefits, as well as NY job creation through in-state facility commitments.
- Manufacturers earn extra credit by committing to retraining or training programs identified in the Workforce Development Reports.
- Improving transparency and public accountability by requiring that the transit agency post the legally binding labor commitments and compliance reports on their website.
- The Workforce Development Report that allows transit agencies and its unionized workforce to plan and anticipate this transition to clean vehicles.

¹ <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-signs-legislation-protect-integrity-public-work-projects>

To fully realize the benefits of the just transition proposed by this bill, it is paramount to ensure that the Green Transit, Green Jobs bill is included in the Executive Budget. If MTA transitioned all 5,780 of its buses to zero-emission buses, this market shaping transition has the potential to create over 6,100 direct and 21,500 indirect jobs in the U.S. bus manufacturing sector. New York State can lead the way by changing how it purchases and contracts high dollar value items- starting with public transit. NYS can transition to a green economy with offshore wind projects, microchip facilities, electric school buses etc., while centering high road jobs through the power of government procurement. We look forward to working with your office to ensure New York achieves its goal of a green and equitable New York that prioritizes the environment and workers.

Sincerely,

Brandon Mancilla
Regional Director
United Auto Workers Region 9A



Joseph Colangelo
President
SEIU NYC Local 246



Carl Kennebrew
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