

August 25, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
Room H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Room S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Speaker Pelosi:

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters nationwide, we urge Congress to invest an additional \$22.5 billion over ten years to accelerate electric school bus deployment and install the necessary charging infrastructure. While we appreciate the investment allocated to electric school buses in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, we need this additional investment to protect our children's health and reach our nation's climate goals.

Every day, 475,000 diesel-polluting school buses carry 25 million children to school. Diesel exhaust is a known carcinogen that causes numerous health problems including lung cancer, asthma, bronchitis, and pneumonia. This directly impacts kids, whose lungs are still developing, and school bus drivers. Black and Latinx children are disproportionately impacted by poor air quality, resulting in higher rates of asthma, emergency room visits, and hospital stays. Asthma leads to school absences, causing children to fall behind in their classes.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) report released earlier this month makes it clear that we must act swiftly to prevent catastrophic climate change. Transportation is the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in the nation, and since school buses make up the nation's largest public transportation fleet, electrifying school buses will both decrease local air pollution and help us tackle global climate change.

President Biden's Build Back Better Budget agenda calls for vital investments that tackle the climate crisis, reduce air pollution, and create good-paying jobs. An investment of \$22.5 billion over ten years to electrify our nation's school buses will do just that while bolstering our domestic industry, reducing asthma attacks and other respiratory ailments for our children, and training our workers in innovative transportation technologies. It is critical that Congress and the White House deliver on this commitment to our nation's school children.

Thank you,

350Brooklyn  
350nyc  
Advanced Energy Economy  
Chesapeake Climate Action Network  
CHISPA Florida  
Chispa LCV  
Clean Fuels Michigan  
Climate Hawks Vote  
Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life  
Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action  
Dream Corps Green For All  
Earthjustice  
Ecology Center

EcoMadres  
Elders Climate Action  
Environment America  
Environmental Advocates NY  
Environmental Defense Fund  
Environmental Law & Policy Center  
Environmental Protection Network  
EVHybridNoire  
Florida Conservation Voters  
Georgia Interfaith Power and Light  
GreenLatinos  
Highland Electric Fleets  
Jobs to Move America  
League of Conservation Voters  
Long Island Progressive Coalition  
Los Angeles County Electric Truck & Bus Coalition  
Los Angeles LMCC IBEW 11/NECA  
Maryknoll Sisters Eastern Region, USA  
Moms Clean Air Force  
Mothers Out Front  
National Consumer Law Center, on behalf of our low-income clients  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Neighbors for Clean Air  
New Urban Mobility Alliance (NUMO)  
New Yorkers for Clean Power  
North Brooklyn Neighbors  
Our Climate  
PIRG  
Plug In America  
Proterra  
Rachel Carson Council  
Save the Sound  
Sierra Club  
Sustaining Way  
The Environmental Center  
The Union of Concerned Scientists  
Tri-State Transportation Campaign  
United Methodist Women  
Voices for Progress

CC:

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