

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 21, 2023

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
2007 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
2007 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs Merkley and Simpson and Ranking Members Murkowski and Pingree:

As you develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we write to request at least \$300 million in new funding be provided for zero-emission school buses under the Clean School Bus Program. We also ask that you include the report language below to enhance the successful deployment of zero-emission buses and robust charging infrastructure for school districts in underserved and rural communities.

The Clean School Bus Program was established as part of the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (IIJA; P.L. 117-58). This bipartisan law included a down payment to start electrifying our nation's massive school bus fleet of roughly 480,000 vehicles in order to provide healthier, cleaner futures for students. The \$2.5 billion dedicated solely to zero-emission buses, along with the additional \$2.5 billion dedicated to zero-emission and alternative fuel buses, only scratches the surface of what is needed to transition to zero-emission buses and improve the health of the more than 20 million students who ride buses to school each day.

With the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) launch of the Clean School Bus Rebate Program last year, we have empirical data showing greater than expected demand that far exceeds allocated funds. The \$500 million initially made available for rebate awards in the first round of funding for school districts generated approximately 2,000 applications requesting a total of up to \$4 billion in funding to replace more than 12,000 buses. This is notable because \$4 billion represents 80 percent of the total funding made available for five years through the IIJA. The EPA responded by increasing the total funding available in this first round of awards from \$500 million to \$1 billion, still falling short of such robust applicant interest. This resounding demand illustrates the need for additional appropriations to continue to support schools as they electrify their bus fleets.

To deliver the benefits of electric school buses and meet the growing demand for school bus electrification, the "Clean Commute for Kids Act" (H.R. 2721; S. 1271 in the 117th Congress) called for a ten-year, \$25 billion investment to deliver on key benefits of electric school buses and meet the growing demand for school bus electrification. The modest additional annual appropriation of at least \$300 million for FY 2024 would bring us closer to meeting this level of investment by bolstering the Clean School Bus Program and provide an opportunity for annual engagement beyond the five years of funding provided in the IIJA, demonstrate support


for a healthier and more productive learning environment for our nation's children, and bring the United States closer to meeting its emissions targets.

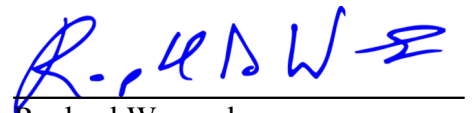
We believe it is imperative that the Subcommittee support efforts to increase access to zero-emission buses and charging infrastructure for school districts in historically underserved and rural communities. Therefore, we ask that you include report language to encourage the necessary outreach, collaboration, and coordination among school districts and the relevant federal agencies:


The Committee provides not less than \$300,000,000 to the Clean School Bus Program for zero-emission school bus deployment and related electric vehicle charging infrastructure. The Committee directs the Agency to conduct outreach to inform, encourage, and support potential award recipients in historically disadvantaged, underserved, and rural communities regarding the availability of resources for the replacement of existing school buses with zero-emission school buses. The Agency shall collaborate with the Department of Energy and Department of Transportation to ensure funding resources for the transition to zero-emission school buses, as well as the necessary charging infrastructure, vehicle-to-grid opportunities, and workforce training programs, are deployed in parallel to optimize program outcomes.


Thank you for your consideration of these requests to ensure the Clean School Bus Program is equipped to improve the health and safety of students, reduce harmful emissions in communities, and meet the needs of our school districts, especially those in historically underserved and rural communities.

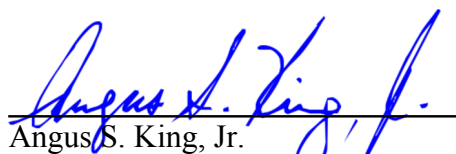
Sincerely,

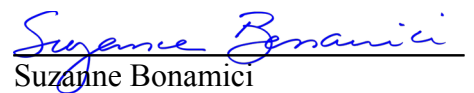

Alex Padilla
United States Senator


Raphael Warnock
United States Senator


Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress


Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress


Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator


Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

André Carson

André Carson
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

Ron Wyden

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Barbara Lee

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Elizabeth Warren

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Veronica Escobar

Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress

Lloyd Doggett

Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly


Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress


Edward J. Markey

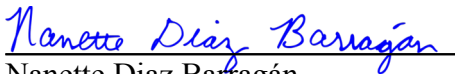
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator


Paul D. Tonko

Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress

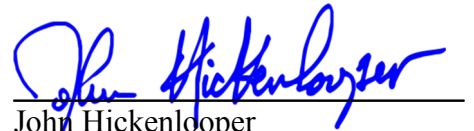

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

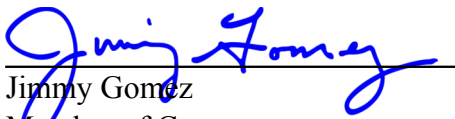

Mike Levin
Member of Congress

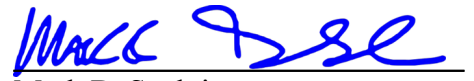

Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress


Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

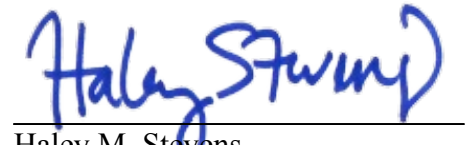

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

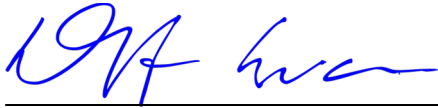

John Hickenlooper
United States Senator


Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress


Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress


Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress

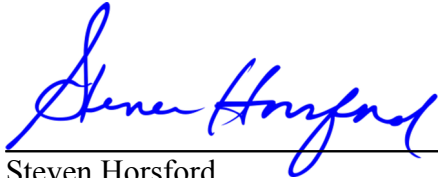

Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress




Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



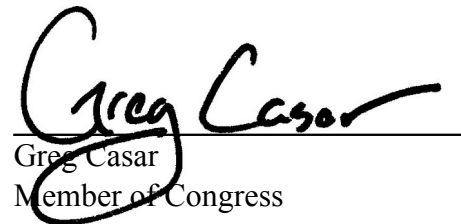
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress




Greg Casar
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



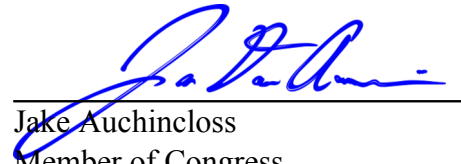
Bill Foster
Member of Congress




Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



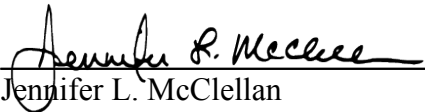
Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



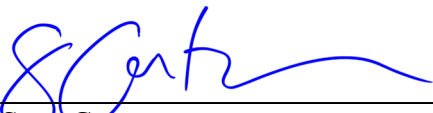
Katie Porter
Member of Congress



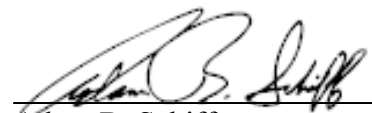
Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



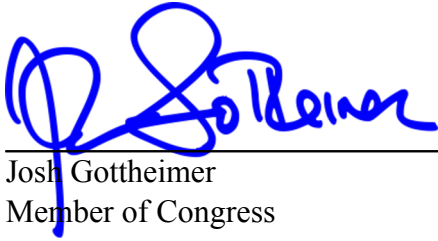
Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



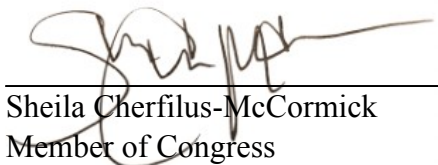
Nikki Budzinski



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



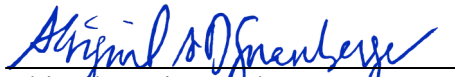
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

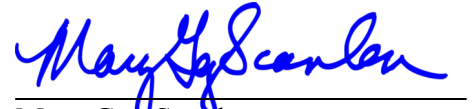



Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress

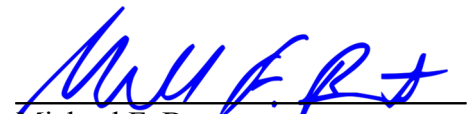



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress


Abigail Davis Spanberger
Member of Congress

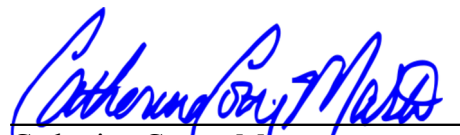

Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress

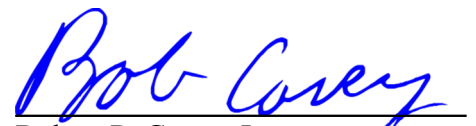

Lucy McBath
Member of Congress


Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator


Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress


Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress

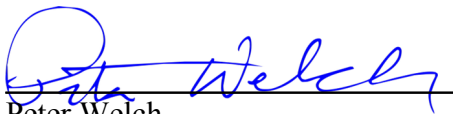

Dina Titus
Member of Congress

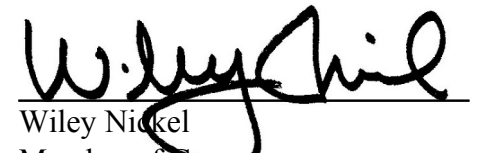

John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress


Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Tina Smith
United States Senator

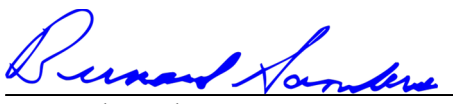

Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
United States Senator

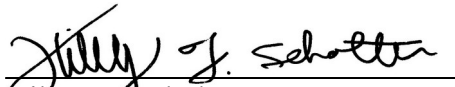

Wiley Nickel
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

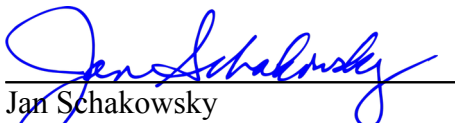

Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress


Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

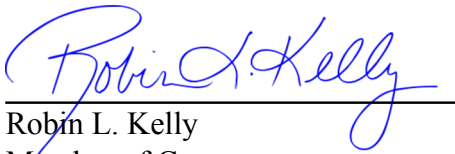

Jacky Rosen
United States Senator

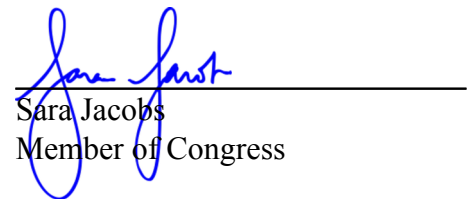

Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress


Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress


Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

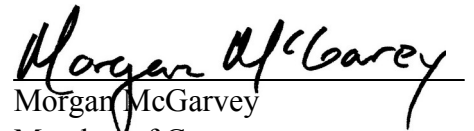

Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress


Dan Goldman
Member of Congress


Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



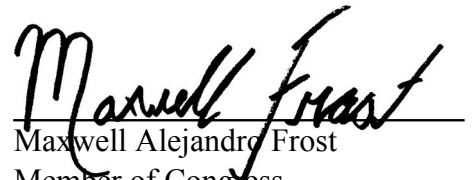
Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Morgan McGarvey
Member of Congress



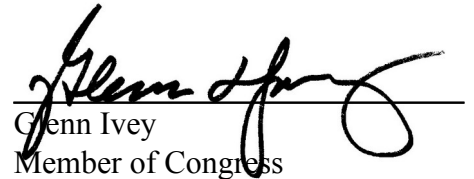
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



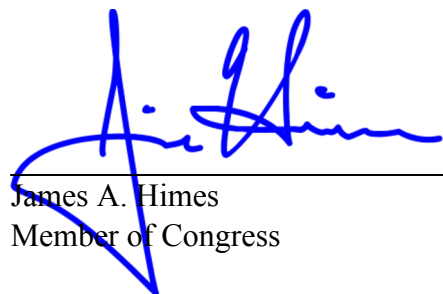
Glenn Ivey
Member of Congress



Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



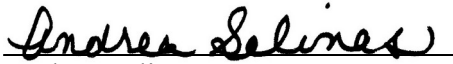
Al Green
Member of Congress

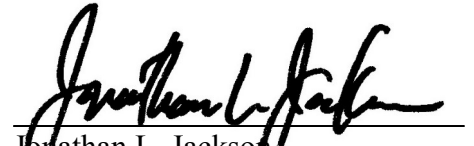



James A. Himes
Member of Congress

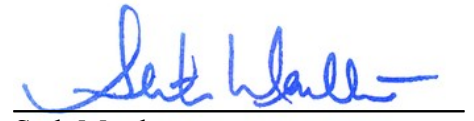



Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress

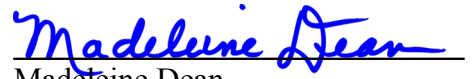

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

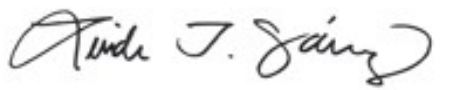

Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

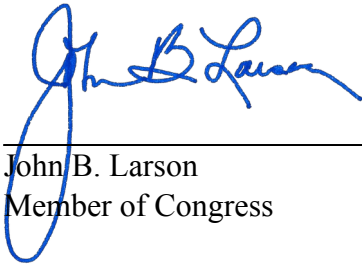

Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress


Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress

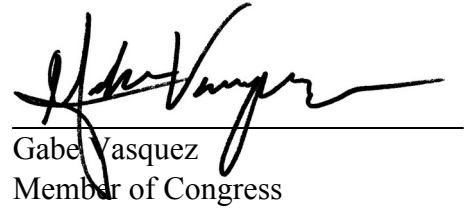

Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress


Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress

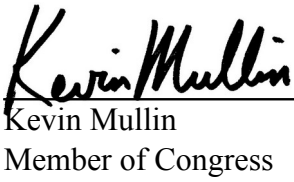

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



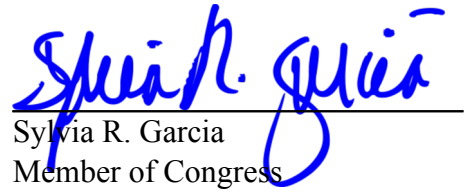
John B. Larson
Member of Congress



Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Robert Garcia
Member of Congress