



Senator Kennedy
Legislative Office Building, Room 708
198 State St
Albany, NY 12210

Assemblywoman Fahy
Legislative Office Building 452
198 State St
Albany, NY 12210

May 2021

Dear Senator Kennedy and Assemblywoman Fahy,

We, the undersigned, write to collectively support S.5268/ A.6754. As currently written, this legislation would provide for the reimbursement of certain costs borne on school districts when they purchase or lease electric school buses. We believe this legislation will improve air quality for our most vulnerable citizens, yield long-term savings for school districts, and expedite the deployment of innovative technologies to spur economic development in pursuit of reaching New York's ambitious climate goals.

School districts face financial barriers that hinder the adoption of electric school buses in New York State. This bill will provide financial incentives to schools for the purchase or lease of electric school buses and the purchase of associated charging equipment and electricity, encouraging the transition to zero-emission vehicles. Expanding electric school bus adoption across the state will deliver financial benefits for school districts by substantially reducing maintenance costs and, in places where utility rate policies are favorable, reducing the volatility of diesel fuel costs levied on those same districts.

Additionally, this legislation will move the state closer to reaching emissions reduction goals embedded in the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) and help reduce dangerous co-pollutants in low- and moderate-income communities. Electric school buses offer New York a pathway for substantially reducing air pollution given the transportation sector accounts for nearly one-third of its greenhouse gas emissions, making it the largest emitter in the state. The incentive included in this bill is based on the level of financial aid that a school district received in the previous fiscal year, with higher incentives going to school districts that receive a higher proportion of state education aid. As a result, this legislation is geared to help school districts in low- and moderate-income communities the most, many of which have disproportionately higher levels of exposure to dangerous pollutants and may experience more incidence of premature death and elevated rates of respiratory disease.

We believe this bill provides New York with a unique opportunity to help reach its climate goals while supporting low- and moderate-income communities and easing barriers to the adoption of innovative technologies. AEE urges the passage of this critically important legislation. **For these reasons, the signatories below strongly support S.5268/ A.6754.**

Ryan Gallentine
Policy Director, Electrifying
Transportation
Advanced Energy Economy

Anne Reynolds
Executive Director
Alliance for Clean Energy
New York

Roger Downs
Conservation
Director
Sierra Club-Atlantic
Chapter

Patrick McClellan
Director of Policy
New York League of
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JoAnn Covington
Chief Legal Officer and
Head of Government
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Duncan McIntyre
Chief Executive Officer
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Chris King
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