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CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

Protect Federal Clean School Bus Funding

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WHAT'S HAPPENING: Federal Clean School Bus Funding Is At Risk

Congress is advancing a reconciliation bill that:

- Repeals and rescinds unobligated funds in the EPA Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program
- Repeals and rescinds unobligated funds for DERA (specific to what was allocated in IRA)
- Eliminates tax credits, newly available to school districts via elective ("direct") pay, that offer up to \$40,000 per electric school bus and up to \$100,000 per charging station
 - 45W Tax Credit for Qualifying Commercial Clean Vehicles
 - 30C Tax Credit for Alternative Fuel Vehicle Refueling Property

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Share Your Experience with Your Senator

Your Representatives and Senators need to hear how these programs have benefitted your community, or how you'd like to be able to claim these tax credits in the future.

Templates are included below. For any questions or additional support, please contact the Alliance for Electric School Buses Coalition Manager Carolina Chacon at carolina@chaconconsulting.com.

Sample Script for Calling Congressional Offices

Hello, my name is [NAME] and I am a [ROLE] at [SCHOOL DISTRICT OR COMPANY], located in [CITY AND ZIP CODE]. I'm calling because our [SCHOOL DISTRICT OR COMPANY] received [AMOUNT] from the [Clean School Bus Program or Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program or relevant tax credits], which helped us provide [CITY] students with new, clean school buses. We also saved the school district money in fueling and maintenance costs.

This support was very valuable to our [REGION] community. We urge you to protect funding and tax credit for clean school buses and their chargers so that more school districts can provide their students with a clean ride to school. Thank you for your time.

Constituent Letter Template for School District

Dear [TITLE] [NAME]:

My name is [NAME] and I am [POSITION] at [SCHOOL DISTRICT]. I have lived in [CITY or NEIGHBORHOOD] for [YEARS] and am your constituent.

I'm writing to share my concern that funding will be cut for [the Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program and/or 45W and 30C tax credits]. Our school district [was awarded or would like to apply for [funding or tax credits] for clean school buses, and were able to purchase [NUMBER] clean school buses.

These buses are saving us approximately [AMOUNT] in operating costs each month and transport [NUMBER] students to and from school each day. [SHARE OTHER DETAILS ABOUT EXPERIENCE WITH CLEAN SCHOOL BUSES LIKE DRIVER EXPERIENCE, PERFORMANCE, AIR QUALITY, ETC]

[SCHOOL DISTRICT] chose to apply for the [funding or tax credit] because we wanted to modernize our bus fleet but didn't have the funding to buy new buses [OR ADD OTHER REASON]. Our school district's budget is tight and we look for any way we can save money. Federal [funding or tax credits] has helped us deliver cleaner rides to our students without having to take away from classroom funding, and is in fact helping us save money on fueling and maintenance.

[DETAIL CURRENT EXPERIENCE] While our project is off to a great start, we were looking forward to applying for more [PROGRAM] funding later this year. Now we fear that funding opportunity will be available to us. We have also worked with [LOCAL COMPANY] on this award, and if funding is cut, they will be impacted, too.

As you can see, our community is benefitting from [this program or these tax credits]. I respectfully ask you to protect these mechanisms and oppose the Congressional bill to repeal and defund them.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [EMAIL OR PHONE NUMBER].

Thank you for your time and consideration,

[SIGNATURE]

[NAME]

Constituent Letter Template for Company

Dear [TITLE] [NAME]:

My name is [NAME] and I am [POSITION] at [COMPANY], based in [CITY or NEIGHBORHOOD].

We are writing to share our concern that funding will be cut for [the Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program and/or 45W and 30C tax credits]. Our company worked with school districts who were awarded funding through the program and were able to purchase [NUMBER] clean school buses.

These buses are saving approximately [AMOUNT] in operating costs each month and transport [NUMBER] students to and from school each day. [SHARE OTHER DETAILS ABOUT EXPERIENCE WITH CLEAN SCHOOL BUSES LIKE DRIVER EXPERIENCE, PERFORMANCE, AIR QUALITY, ETC]

[COMPANY] is invested in providing the best transportation service available to our customers, and that includes helping them invest in cleaner models [OR ADD OTHER REASONS YOU ARE INVESTED IN CLEAN SCHOOL BUSES].

This program is helping companies like mine stay afloat in a difficult economy, creating jobs and supporting our public school districts. We would like future funding to be available for more communities. Please work with your colleagues in Congress to protect [these programs or tax credits].

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [EMAIL OR PHONE NUMBER].

Thank you for your time and consideration,

[SIGNATURE]

[NAME]

Key Components of a Constituent Letter

- Introduce yourself - name, occupation, where you live
- Affirm that you are their constituent either through where you live or where you work
- Describe what you are concerned about -- a pause in federal funding, permanent cuts to federal funding, changes to the program, etc.
- Describe how you have benefitted from the tax credits or funding programs, for example:
 - FUNDING - How much funding your organization/company/school district received
 - NEW BUSES - How many clean school buses you have purchased or deployed
 - KIDS - How many students are expected to ride in those clean school buses
 - COST SAVINGS - How much money your fleet is saving on operating expenses
 - AIR QUALITY - Any data from your grant or rebate application that highlights other benefits -- reduction in key pollutants, for example
 - OTHER BENEFITS - Any special components of your clean school bus project, for example, if you are deploying vehicle-to-grid technology, solar energy, repowered buses, etc.
 - LOCAL JOBS - Name any other *local* companies you are working with on this project, including the manufacturer or dealer, contractors, electricians, etc.
- If possible, explain why you applied for funding or are invested in clean school buses -- to save money on purchasing new buses, to address air quality issues near your school, to take advantage of vehicle-to-grid technology, etc.
- Name what you are personally experiencing -- can't access grant funds, not sure if rebate funding will arrive, would like to apply in the future, etc.
- Make your ask (pick one or customize your own):
 - I ask you to work with Congress to continue this funding so that more students can benefit from cleaner buses and cleaner air.
 - Our community is benefitting from this program. I respectfully urge you to oppose the Congressional bill that would repeal or defund it.
 - We are looking forward to applying for this [program and/or tax credits] and bringing cleaner school buses to our community. Please vote no on eliminating this key funding.