

CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
ROOM 4061
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4020
FAX (916) 651-4920

DISTRICT OFFICES
11760 CENTRAL AVENUE
SUITE 100
CHINO, CA 91710
TEL (909) 591-7016
FAX (909) 591-7096

464 WEST 4TH STREET
SUITE 454B
SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92401
TEL (909) 888-5360
FAX (909) 591-7096

California State Senate

SENATOR
CONNIE M. LEYVA
TWENTIETH SENATE DISTRICT



CHAIR
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON
MANUFACTURED HOME
COMMUNITIES

MEMBER

RULES

EDUCATION

ENERGY, UTILITIES AND
TELECOMMUNICATIONS

JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

TRANSPORTATION
AND HOUSING

SELECT COMMITTEE ON PORTS
AND GOODS MOVEMENT

SELECT COMMITTEE ON
CALIFORNIA-MEXICO
COOPERATION

SELECT COMMITTEE ON
WOMEN AND INEQUALITY:
STRATEGIES TO PROMOTE
OPPORTUNITY

June 20, 2016

Mary D. Nichols
Chair, California Air Resources Board
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812

Dear Chair Nichols:

I am writing to urge the Air Resources Board (Board) to consider strengthening its financial commitment to zero emission vehicle school buses. Specifically, I request that the recommended allotment of \$42 million toward the *Zero-Emission Bus Pilot Commercial Deployment Project* be divided equally between transit and school buses.

In our most disadvantaged communities throughout the state, children rely heavily on school buses for transportation. Many of these areas suffer from poor air quality and high levels of particulate matter that cause serious damage to developing lungs. Children living in our state's transportation corridors experience more health ailments compared to other areas of California. For example, half of the children attending the elementary school across from the San Bernardino Intermodal Facility (rail yard) have asthma. Unfortunately, this is a common story for many communities in California.

Zero emission school buses will help reverse this trend. Pollutants emitted by diesel school buses have serious health impacts as they tend to concentrate primarily inside bus compartments. These harmful pollutants are then inhaled by maturing lungs and can lead to reduced lung growth, asthma and neurocognitive deficits. According to the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*, 'elevated air pollution levels inside school buses have been recognized as an insidious hazard that may affect the health of 25 million U.S. children who commute to school in diesel powered school buses each day.'

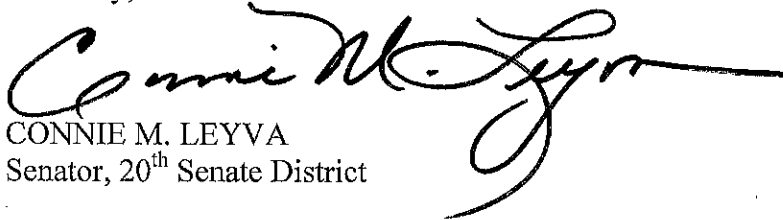
By combining funding for transit buses and school buses, we are putting our children at a disadvantage. The grant scoring methods generally tend to favor transit buses, which can have the effect of dissuading school bus manufacturers from competing for funds.

While it is critical to get more clean transit buses and school buses into all of our communities, we should not use a one-size-fits-all standard to determine funding allocations. As the Board

moves forward on these issues, I urge you to divide the funding as noted above. Attending school must be a safe and healthy experience for California children. Increasing the amount of zero emission school buses on our roads will improve the health of our most vulnerable populations and most disadvantaged communities.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Should you have any questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact my staff member, Cameron Valderrama, at (916) 651-4020.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Connie M. Leyva". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

CONNIE M. LEYVA
Senator, 20th Senate District