



October 13, 2016

The Honorable Mary D. Nichols
Chair, California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: 2016-17 Funding Plan – Rural School Bus Funding – SUPPORT

The Small School Districts' Association (SSDA) represents California's small school districts, serving 2,500 pupils or fewer, as well as many county offices of education that oversee small school districts. Over half of the 1,000 school districts in California are small school districts.

SSDA is proud to support the proposed \$10 million in funding for rural school buses, which would help rural school districts replace buses, thereby reducing exhaust generated by old and dirty buses. Small school districts, many of which are in rural and disadvantaged communities, face many challenges. This funding increases the opportunity for these districts to join California in leading the nation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect students.

Approximately 700,000 California students ride a school bus on a daily basis, according to a 2014 Legislative Analyst's Office report. Providing funding assistance to school districts will speed up the replacement of dirty school buses, which negatively impact the environment and expose students to fumes and air contaminants from diesel emissions. As you know, children are especially sensitive to potential health complications from this pollution.

SSDA strongly supports the \$10 million proposed in the 2016-17 funding plan and urge the Board to approve this funding. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (916) 557-9745 or erin@capitoladvisors.org.

Sincerely,

Erin Evans-Fudem
Capitol Advisors Group

cc: Air Resource Board Members Sandra Berg, John Balmes, M.D., Hector De La Torre, John Eisenhut, Dean Florez, John Gioia, Judy Mitchell, Barbara Riordan, Ron Roberts, Phil Serna, Alexander Sherriffs, M.D., Daniel Sperling, Diane Takvorian