CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
95814

October 11, 2005

Barbara Riordan, Acting Chair
State Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Clean School Bus Funding Allocation Plan

Dear Ms. Riordan:

As you know, this year's budget includes $12.5 million for the replacement of school buses manufactured before 1977. According to the allocation plan laid out in a memo from Air Resources Board (ARB) staff to Secretary Lloyd dated September 21, 2005, school districts may not be able to apply for these funds until September 2006. With this schedule, two school years may pass before our children are able to benefit from these funds.

According to discussions with your staff, it is our understanding that the ARB is now revising this schedule so that funds will be distributed by June 2006 or earlier. We would appreciate a copy of this updated allocation schedule.

We have been told that, because the budget language specifies a different allocation method than the per-capita basis used in the past, the ARB feels it is necessary to hold public workshops and gather other comments on the alternative allocation scheme. Prior to any workshops, we would like to clarify the legislative intent of the budget language in order to expedite the allocation process.

The budget language of §3900-0001-0044 (Motor Vehicle Account) specifies that $12.5 million is to be allocated for the ARB to "replace pre-1977 school buses with new school buses that comply with the most recent passenger safety standards." Because these funds are not sufficient

to replace all of the pre-1977 buses in California, we are asking the ARB to allocate funds to replace the oldest of the pre-1977 buses first based upon manufacture date.

If a second factor is needed to prioritize funding between buses with the same manufacture date, we feel it is appropriate for the ARB to use the bus' total mileage, although this was not included specifically in the budget language.

While we would like to replace all pre-1977 buses, removing the oldest offending buses first will maximize both the air quality and safety benefits achievable. This distribution method will also ensure that the reduced risks to children's health from diesel emissions have an equitable geographic distribution.

We encourage the ARB to expedite the distribution of these important funds.

Sincerely,

Senator Pro-Tem Don Perata
Ninth District

Senator Dean Florez
Sixteenth District

Senator Charles Poochigian
Fourteenth District

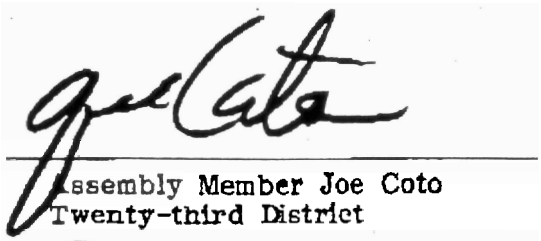
Assembly Member Michael Villines
Twenty-ninth District

Senator Jim Battin
Thirty-seventh District

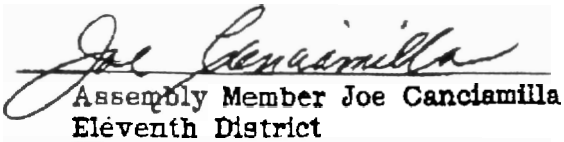
Assembly Member Greg Aghazarian
Twenty-sixth District

Senator Denise Ducheny
Fortieth District

Assembly Member Joe Baca
Sixty-second District

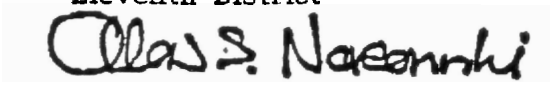


Assembly Member Joe Coto
Twenty-third District

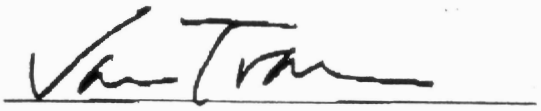


Assembly Member Joe Canciamilla
Eleventh District

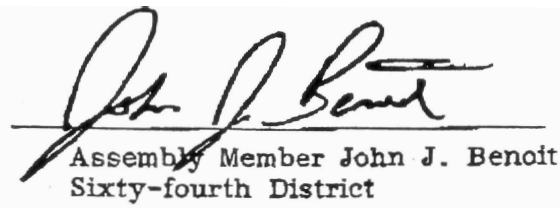
Senator Martha Escutia
Thirtieth District



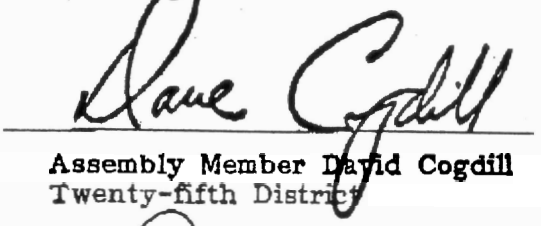
Assembly Member Alan Nakanishi
Tenth District



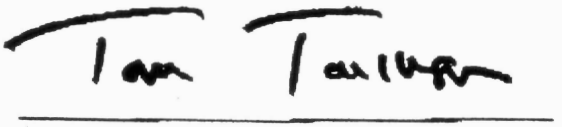
Assembly Member Van Tran
Sixty-eighth District



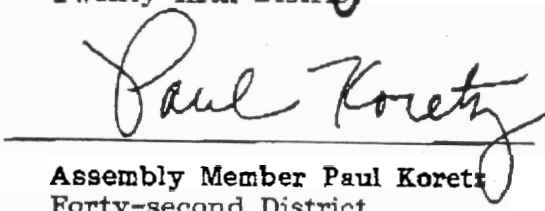
Assembly Member John J. Benoit
Sixty-fourth District



Assembly Member David Cogdill
Twenty-fifth District

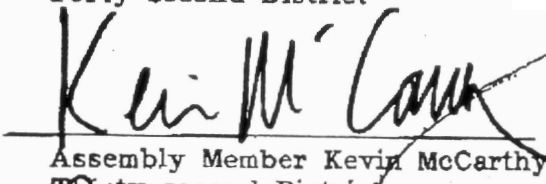


Senator Tom Torlakson
Seventh District

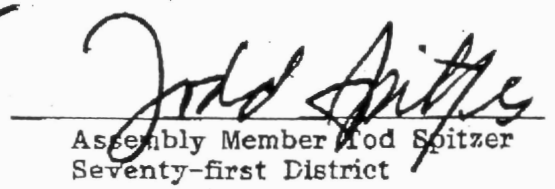


Assembly Member Paul Koretz
Forty-second District

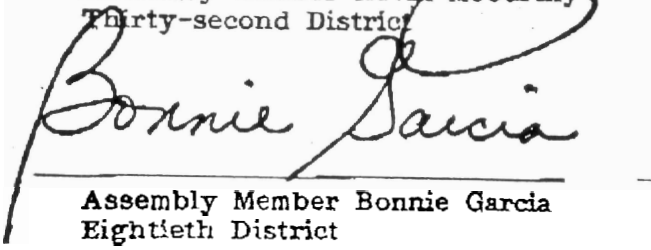
Assembly Member Ira Ruskin
Twenty-first District



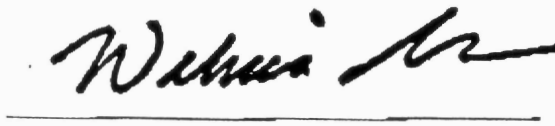
Assembly Member Kevin McCarthy
Thirty-second District



Assembly Member Todd Spitzer
Seventy-first District



Assembly Member Bonnie Garcia
Eightieth District



Assembly Member Wilma Chan
Sixteenth District

Assembly Member Roy Ashburn
Eighteenth District

Assembly Member Betty Karnette
Twenty-seventh District

Assembly Member Rebecca Cohn
Twenty-fourth District

Senator Wesley Chesbro
Second District

Assembly Member Fran Pavley
Forty-first District

cc: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Secretary Alan Lloyd