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ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH CONGRESS

**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Energy and Commerce**  
**Washington, DC 20515-6115**

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CHAIRMAN

June 23, 2004

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The Honorable C.W. Bill Young  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-218 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David R. Obey  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Young and Ranking Member Obey:

We urge you to support full funding of the President's FY 2005 budget request of \$65 million for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean School Bus USA program. This initiative will assist school districts and the bus contractors that serve them in replacing older school buses with new low-emitting school buses equipped with modern emission control and safety features. It will also enable them to retrofit newer school buses with advanced emission controls that have proven to be an effective solution. Full funding would enhance the ability of the Clean School Bus USA partners to meet its goal in upgrading the Nation's entire school bus fleet by 2010.

In light of EPA's recent designation of new areas of the country in non-attainment and the Nation's continuing and expensive air quality challenges, this initiative provides an excellent tool for communities and states to effectively address those challenges.

There is broad, bipartisan support for efforts similar to the program proposed in the President's budget. A smaller version of this program has already achieved positive results using the funding Congress provided in each of Fiscal Years 2003 and 2004. Unfortunately, the EPA was only able to fund 17 of the 120 grant requests that were submitted, representing just 8 percent of the requests for funding that were received.

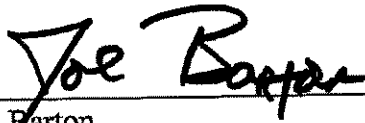
A diverse coalition of natural gas and diesel engine manufacturers, environmental groups, school bus and retrofit technology manufacturers, and school transportation associations representing each of the 50 states has worked to develop a sensible, cost effective, and environmentally sound proposal that will help school districts provide safe and clean

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Honorable David R. Obey  
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transportation for children. That proposal is included in the conference report to H.R. 6, the comprehensive energy bill.

Facilitating the replacement and retrofit of higher emitting school buses will significantly reduce emissions and continue cleaning the air. We urge you to support full funding of this important effort.

Sincerely,



Joe Barton  
Chairman



John D. Dingell  
Ranking Member