



March 7, 2025

The Honorable Marc Korman and Members
House Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: FAVORABLE- HB 1269 - School Bus Transition - Propane-Powered School Buses-
Grant Program, Fund, and Purchase**

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce and Members of the Committee:

Last week I signed up to give virtual hearing testimony regarding HB 1269, but there seemed to have been technical issues, and I was not called upon. I ask that you accept this written testimony for the record.

There are four energy options for powering school buses for student transportation: diesel, gasoline, electricity and propane. All these various types of powertrains meet the EPA standards for emissions. But two of them go much further than these standards for reducing emissions. Both EV emissions and propane near zero emissions.

The two most toxic emissions are particulate matter and knocks which contribute to the respiratory illness especially in children. EV buses are 0 for both types of emissions and propane buses are virtually 0 for particulate matter and are 96% better emissions than diesel. So, when we speak of nearly 0 emissions, this is how close to 0 we can be with affordable propane. This should not be surprising considering the same propane powering our school buses is the same propane used on back patio grills that we let touch our food.

The Carbon Intensity (CI) refers to the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emitted per unit of activity, energy produced, or economic output. Propane in the State of Maryland has a CI of approximately 80 grams. Where the CI of the State of Maryland's electric grid which is made up of nuclear, coal and natural gas is 154 grams. This is almost twice that of propane.

The cost of a propane school bus is significantly less than an EV school bus both to purchase and operate. An EV School bus is a couple of \$100,000 more per bus. The operational range of

propane school buses is also better. An EV bus has a range of up to 130 miles between charging and where propane buses have a range up to 400 miles between fueling.

Currently, there are 22,500 propane school buses deployed in over 1,100 school districts nationwide and over 2,500 EV buses in 41 states across the country. There are 418,000 remaining diesel buses in the country that need to be replaced with cleaner emission vehicles. Manufacturing companies like Blue Bird Corporation are offering options for school districts to deploy both EV and propane buses to meet the duty cycles of different transportation routes as well as meeting their sustainability goals.

We encourage the State of Maryland to make both clean alternatives to diesel buses available to school districts and bus contractors across the state via grants program as noted in HB 1269 for their clean energy options.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Steve Whaley

Stephen Whaley

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