

Committee: Environment and Transportation
Testimony on: HB1019 - “Propane–Powered School Buses”
Organization: Climate Parents of Prince George’s
Person Submitting: Joseph Jakuta, Lead Volunteer
Position: Unfavorable
Hearing Date: February 26, 2026



Dear Mr. Chairperson and Committee Members:

Thank you for considering our testimony to HB1059, “School Bus Transition – Propane–Powered School Buses – Grant Program, Fund, and Purchase.” Climate Parents is a campaign to reduce climate change-causing pollution in our schools, and our group is active in Prince George’s County. In particular, we recently worked directly with Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) technical staff and other advocates to develop a first-in-the-nation School Climate Change Action Plan.

The need to transition to zero emission school buses is vital for Maryland to meet its obligation to the current generation of young people and to future generations. We cannot become the zero emission society that we need to by 2045 if our school systems continue to rely on dirty 20th century transportation technologies.

However, the solution of propane will just leave our children headed down the wrong road. While we do realize that there are some benefits of propane buses over diesel buses in terms of pollution from oxides of Nitrogen and, to a lesser extent, diesel particulate matter, those reductions pale in comparison with the reductions from switching to electric. Additionally, when it comes to climate causing pollution evidence shows that propane buses produce more greenhouse gases than do electric buses. According to recent reporting “The bottom line: Propane appears better — and only incrementally so — when compared to diesel, which is more polluting.”¹

We do not want our children to continue to be burdened by air and climate pollution when traveling to school. It affects their ability to learn, both mentally and in terms of additional school absences. But the solution is not something that will incrementally improve air pollution and increase climate pollution, it is to invest in the energy and transportation infrastructure of the 21st century, electric infrastructure.

We encourage a **UNFAVORABLE** report for this important legislation.

¹ <https://www.vox.com/climate/23896197/electric-school-bus-propane-diesel-pollution-kids>