

April 2, 2025

The Honorable Al Muratsuchi Chair, Assembly Committee on Education Capitol Office 1021 O Street, Suite 5310 Sacramento, CA 95814

## Re: AB 1111 (Soria): Pupil transportation: school buses: zero-emission vehicles OPPOSE – As Amended March 28, 2025 Set for hearing April 9, 2025 – Assembly Committee on Education

Chair Muratsuchi,

We write to you as environmental, health, and community advocates. We are collectively and individually committed to expanding adoption of zero-emission electric school buses, with robust workforce standards, so that our communities can breathe clean air and enjoy family-sustaining, high-wage careers.

We wish to express our strong opposition to AB 1111, which would needlessly push back California's transition to zero-emission school buses by an additional 10 years. Critically, the proposed delay means that diesel school buses will likely continue to take our kids to school well beyond 2045 and into the 2060s. California's pupils, our health, and our climate deserve better.

As of 2023, 62% of the publicly owned school buses in California were still fueled by diesel, with about half of these being from 2007 or earlier. Pollutants from mobile sources are particularly harmful to children—leading to reduced lung development and increasing risk of lung cancer, asthma symptoms, bronchitis, and pneumonia. Exposure to emissions has also been linked to poor academic performance. Zero-emission technologies are here, and our children deserve every effort to provide these school buses.

Now, more than ever, it is imperative that California remains committed to supporting the essential transition to zero-emission school buses in order to protect the health of children and communities. We appreciate your consideration and support of this important program. If you have any questions, please reach out to Ada Waelder (Earthjustice) at <u>awaelder@earthjustice.org</u>.

Sincerely,

*Yasmine Agelidis* Earthjustice

*Gracyna Mohabir* California Environmental Voters

*Ellie Cohen* The Climate Center

*Judith Borcz* Climate Action California Aesha Mahmoud Jobs to Move America

Jakob Evans Sierra Club California

Adrian Martinez LA County Electric Truck & Bus Coalition