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18-TRAN-01 SB 114 Funding Available for Zero Emission School Buses and Infrastructure

As a representative of a Local Educational Agency, I am writing to express our strong support for the continued prioritization of LEAs in the allocation of SB 114 funding, aimed at accelerating the adoption of Zero-Emission School Buses in California. Our commitment is to ensure the safety of our students by transporting them in clean, environmentally friendly vehicles.

Maintaining a focus on LEAs, especially those serving small, rural communities and a high percentage of unduplicated pupils, ensures that SB 114 funds are allocated in a manner that maximizes both environmental and social equity goals. By prioritizing LEAs in the distribution of SB 114 funding, the program directly supports the agencies that are most invested in student health and educational outcomes. This approach ensures that funds are not diverted but are instead used to directly impact the students'™ daily experiences and safety.

Many small and rural districts face unique challenges, such as limited financial resources and fewer administrative capabilities, which can impede their transition to zero-emission vehicles. SB 114 grants provide these districts with the necessary support to participate actively in the move towards zero-emission transportation by allowing for the replacement of buses that are no longer in operational condition.

The strategic allocation of SB 114 funds to Local Educational Agencies and the prioritization of support for small, rural districts are essential to progressing towards a cleaner, more sustainable future. This funding approach not only safeguards our students by providing cleaner transportation options but also enhances our collective ability to meet California's™ environmental and educational objectives.

Thank you.