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Docket Number:	15-ALT-01
Project Title:	2016-2017 Investment Plan Update for the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program
TN #:	206631
Document Title:	Comments on 2016-2017 Alternative Fuels Investment Plan
Description:	N/A
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Organization:	First Priority Bus Sales/Alex Cherepakhov
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	11/16/2015 11:52:00 AM
Docketed Date:	11/16/2015



November 5, 2015

California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Comments on the Energy Commission's 2016-2017 Alternative Fuels Investment Plan

Dear Commissioner Scott, Energy Commission staff, and Advisory Committee,

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the California Energy Commission's 2016-2017 Alternative Fuels Investment Plan and strongly support the Commission's goal to transform California's fuel and vehicle types to help attain the state's climate change policies.

First Priority Bus Sales is a division of First Priority Global, which is one of the largest and most reliable providers of specialty vehicles in the United States. Our mission is to service California school districts with high quality, environmentally friendly school buses, focusing on improved safety standards and eliminating toxic exposures to students. First Priority Bus Sales provides a new, all-electric school bus that eliminates toxic exposures and offers a cost-effective solution to protect the health and safety of all California students, while substantially reducing GHG emissions by more than 80%, and lowering operating costs for school districts throughout the state. In addition, First Priority is exploring opportunities to develop an ultra-low NOx natural gas school bus and zero-emission, all-electric farming equipment to help become the leading provider of ultra-low emission vehicles in California and beyond.

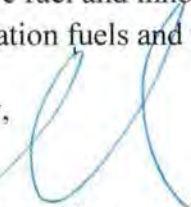
The school bus industry is the largest form of mass transit in the United States, carrying twice as many passengers as compared to the US transit industry. Every school day 480,000 school buses carry 25 million children - more than half of America's schoolchildren. However, school buses are some of the oldest and one of the dirtiest fleets on the road – emitting nearly twice as much pollution per mile as a semi-truck. Children are sensitive receptors and face elevated health risks from exposures to toxic air contaminants from diesel emissions, and the old, dirty diesel school bus fleets disproportionately expose students to toxic air contaminants and associated health risks. There is an opportunity now to accelerate the demonstration and deployment of state-of-the-art zero-emission school buses and develop and demonstrate ultra-low NOx natural gas school buses to eliminate toxic diesel exposures to provide a cost-effective solution to protect the health and safety of all students.

We strongly support the proposed \$23M for Medium- and Heavy-Duty Vehicle Technology Demonstration, Scale-up and Manufacturing to help accelerate the deployment of advanced technology school buses to eliminate exposure of harmful diesel pollutants to children, as well as reduce emissions in the agricultural sector.

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We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on California Energy Commission's 2016-2017 Alternative Fuels Investment Plan and appreciate the efforts of the Energy Commission to advance alternative fuel and innovative technology vehicles to reduce use and dependence on petroleum transportation fuels and help meet the state's climate change goals.

Sincerely,



Alex Cherepakhov
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