

DOCKETED

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on Electric School Bus Infrastructure Workshop

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

Friday, September 30th, 2022

California Energy Commission
715 P St, Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: The Lion Electric Co. USA Inc Comments on the Electric School Bus Bi-Directional Infrastructure Funding Concept Hosted by the California Energy Commission

Dear M. Aguila,

The Lion Electric Co. USA Inc. (Lion) would like to thank you and the California Energy Commission for your work to reduce emissions in California, through the deployment of electric vehicle transportation and the associated charging infrastructure. Lion strongly supports these initiatives to reduce harmful GHG and criteria pollutant emissions throughout California. The spirit and purpose of this request for information, to discuss a funding concept for electric school bus bi-directional infrastructure aligns strongly with Lion's mission as a company solely devoted to zero-emission heavy-duty vehicle deployment and with California's goal to reduce greenhouse gas and criteria pollutant emissions. Not only will this program accelerate the deployment of zero-emission vehicles, but it will also serve as a model for future programs designed to do the same in other states. Most importantly, this program will reduce pollutants and emissions throughout California and will clean our air.

As you may know, Lion is a leading Original Equipment Manufacturer of purpose-built, all-electric medium- and heavy-duty vehicles, including zero-emission school buses, shuttle buses and trucks. Lion has successfully deployed these vehicles in California, Florida, New York, Massachusetts, Minnesota, and other states across the nation. We have over 700 vehicles on the road today that have collectively accumulated more than 10 million miles of service and recorded data. Lion is also proud to have announced our state-of-the-art, automated facility in Joliet, Illinois, that will manufacture up to 20,000 medium- and heavy-duty electric vehicles each year. This new factory of 900,000 square feet will be the largest commercial electric vehicle plant in the United States, with the first vehicles expected off the production line in H2 2022. Over a decade of knowledge, performance, and innovation have culminated in our dominance of this industry, in which many other medium- and heavy-duty vehicle manufacturers are just now taking their first steps into the electric arena.

One of the greatest challenges in fleet electrification is securing and installing charging infrastructure due to cost, project delays, utility workload, and a lack of funding. Bi-directional charging infrastructure can be even more challenging to adopt because it is an emerging technology. We are deeply invested in supporting the California Energy Commission with this concept and invite you to please see our comments below.

We strongly support the program's proposed focus on school buses, and we would also like to see funding for bi-directional infrastructure made available for zero-emission trucks in the near future. We

believe that it will help to attract broader interest in this technology and accelerate the electrification of the transportation sector.

We would like to also respectfully ask that the CEC increases the total funding budget, to allow for more than three to five awardees. Bi-directional charging infrastructure can be very expensive. We appreciate the CEC implementing a cap of \$2-3 million per project and believe this will give applicants an opportunity to propose larger and more expansive projects. That said, we see many enthusiasts for bi-directional charging, and we anticipate that demand may far outweigh supply if funding for this program is not increased.

We are looking forward to learning more about the Electric School Bus Bi-Directional Infrastructure Funding Concept and would like to thank the California Energy Commission for inviting organizations like Lion to respond to this public comment opportunity. As a manufacturer of all electric zero-emission heavy-duty vehicles, we are proud to support the CEC as it facilitates the transition to a cleaner, healthier California for all. The Lion team looks forward to continuing to work towards progress together with the California Energy Commission into the foreseeable future.

Respectfully,

Grants Team

The Lion Electric Co. USA Inc.