



ELECTRIFYNY

November 8, 2021

Marie Therese Dominguez
Commissioner of NYS Department of Transportation
50 Wolf Rd.
Albany, NY 12232
commissioner@dot.ny.gov

ATTN: Commissioner Dominguez,

On behalf of the ElectrifyNY coalition, we write to share with you legislation that might be of interest to the New York State Department of Transportation. The Green Transit, Green Jobs bills ([S3535B/A3090](#) & [S3405/A2083](#)) address two of our urgent crises--the current lack of desirable high-quality jobs and ongoing damages of climate change--by using government procurement of electric buses for the public good. In order to pass one bill, we are in the process of amending the Green Transit bill to include the Green Jobs bill.

ElectrifyNY is a statewide coalition of advocates for environmental justice, public transportation, social justice, and good jobs fighting for a clean, equitable electric transportation future for New York. Our coalition consists of 12 member organizations representing communities in New York City, Long Island, and the Greater New York area.

As you are aware, the transportation sector is the leading source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the state. In New York City and other urban areas, environmental justice communities suffer the brunt of exposure to harmful pollutants and fine particulate matter (PM2.5) from tailpipe emissions, which has led to devastating health outcomes, including disproportionate incidence of asthma and other respiratory ailments. In addition, diesel mechanics fear the transition to electric vehicles will result in job loss or poor quality jobs in the clean fuel economy.

The bill will require every public transit authority, by 2029, to purchase only new zero-emission buses as they replace their aging buses. In addition, the bill requires a



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Workforce Development Report in order to ensure workers provide input and are adequately notified about jobs lost and created, re-training, or skills improvement opportunities. In addition, it prevents the outsourcing of existing maintenance and operations jobs.

Once the Green Transit bill is amended to include the Green Jobs bill, it would encourage high-quality job growth in New York State's transportation manufacturing sector and provide a just transition for diesel bus-reliant jobs through retraining programs. The Employment Plan will require every public transportation system eligible to receive public funds to use a "best value" contracting framework to evaluate manufacturers' bids for these electric buses and charging infrastructure contracts. By giving extra credit to proposals, this "best value" framework incentivizes bidders to compete up by committing to good wages, benefits, retraining, and placement of facilities in NY as well as usage of registered apprenticeship programs and job creation for underrepresented individuals.

Our primary campaign focus has been advancing the transition of public transit and municipal fleets to electric vehicle technology, our key reasoning being that residents of environmental justice communities rely primarily on public transit for mobility. Public transit is the lifeblood of any major city. Meanwhile, in suburban towns it is necessary but difficult to access. It is our goal to ensure that while transit buses provide a vital role in moving our people, they do so without undermining their health and well-being.

ElectrifyNY supported the development and introduction of the Green Transit, Green Jobs bills ([S3535B/A3090](#) & [S3405/A2083](#)) as a way to achieve the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Supporting these bills provides a viable method to achieve the goals set by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

We look forward to continued opportunities to work with your office in advancing policies that demand an equitable and clean transportation future for our State. ElectrifyNY is open to discussing these bills and hearing any concerns or questions from your office.

Thank You,
From the Members of ElectrifyNY,

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ElectrifyNY Coalition Organizations:

New York City Environmental Justice Alliance

Tri-State Transportation Campaign

Environmental Advocates NY

Jobs to Move America

Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

Sierra Club

Earthjustice

E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs)

