



WORLD  
RESOURCES  
INSTITUTE

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March 21, 2021

Dear Chairman Pallone,

I write today on behalf of the World Resources Institute (WRI) to comment on Section 34341 of H.R. 1848, the LIFT America Act, for the record of the Energy and Commerce Committee hearing scheduled for March 22, 2021.

Section 1848 of the LIFT America Act would establish a Clean School Bus Program to replace polluting diesel school buses with clean electric buses. Doing so is vitally important to protect the health of millions of school children, improve their ability to learn, reduce carbon dioxide emissions, and help catalyze the electrification of America's transportation system. To protect our children now and in the future we should commit, as a nation, to replacing the entire fleet of approximately 480,000 diesel school buses with electric buses.

WRI strongly supports the approach taken in the LIFT Act's Clean School Bus Program, however the authorized appropriations level of \$130 million per year is far too low to accomplish the task at hand. Electric School buses currently cost more than \$200,000 more than equivalent diesel school buses. At that price, the authorized funding in the LIFT Act would only be sufficient to replace approximately 650 school buses per year, meaning it would take more than 700 years to replace the entire fleet. The incremental cost of electric school buses could be cut dramatically if electric bus production scales up to the level needed to replace the fleet over a decade. Unfortunately, the authorization level in the LIFT Act is woefully inadequate to achieve the needed economies of scale.

As the Committee marks up H.R. 1848 we urge it to increase the authorization for the Clean School Bus Program to \$2.5 billion per year, as provided in Section 423 of the Clean Future Act. Such an investment would lead to a rapid decline in the cost of electric school buses and put the nation on course to turn our yellow school buses green to provide a clean ride to all 25 million children who rely on buses to get to school.

Sincerely,

Daniel A. Lashof  
U.S. Director, World Resources Institute