Draft 8/13/04

Draft Senate/ House Letter

[The ful name and address of your Senators and Congressman can be found by typing
your zip code and pressing “go” in the box at the top center of the Congress.org web
site.]

Dear Senator/Congressman:

On behalf of our ____ employees in our state and the ______ school children we
transport in ___ local communities, I am writing to ask for your support for full and
flexible funding of the EPA’s FY2005 budget request of $65 million for the
Environmental Protection Agency’s Clean School Bus USA program.

The Clean School Bus USA program will provide grants to assist school districts
and the school bus contractors serving them to replace older school buses with new low-emitting school buses equipped with modern emission control and safety features, and to
retrofit newer school buses with advanced emission controls that have proven to be very
effective solutions for newer buses. Full funding will greatly enhance the ability of Clean
School Bus USA partners to meet the goal of upgrading the nation's entire school bus
fleet by 2010.

There is broad, bipartisan support for efforts such as the program proposed in the
EPA’s budget request. A smaller Clean School Bus USA demonstration program has
already achieved very positive results using $5 million in funding Congress provided in
each of Fiscal Years 2003 and 2004. Facilitating replacement and retrofit of higher
emitting school buses will significantly reduce emissions and help clean the air. We
urge you to support full funding of this important effort and to ensure that EPA have the
broadest possible flexibility in awarding grants to allow all systems to participate,
including those systems that have chosen to contract out for school bus services. This is
consistent with the approach approved by the House and Senate as part of the
comprehensive energy bills that have passed both the House and Senate. I am attaching a
short paper that outlines the need for this flexibility and how it can be achieved. If you
have any questions about the program, please contact Mr. Gabe Rozsa, who represents
the National School Transportation Association in Washington at 202-530-4843.

 Sincerely,