Dear Speaker Johnson and Members of the New York City Council,

In 2020 the NYC Clean School Bus Coalition formed with the knowledge that our planet and our children are already experiencing the adverse effects of diesel emissions; from high rates of asthma in areas where bus depots are heavily concentrated, to the production of greenhouse gas emissions that worsen climate change. Since our formation, we have been committed to advocating for an all electric school bus fleet in New York City in order to improve air quality and improve public health.

We represent students, parents, bus mechanics and drivers, environmental justice communities, and many others who are at the frontlines of these impacts. The climate and public health crises we face are only worsening due to the proliferation of pollution and smog in our atmosphere, as a result of our continued reliance on diesel school buses.

Therefore, we believe Intro 455-A is as important now as it was when it was introduced in 2018. The bill, most importantly, mandates that the city achieve a 100% all-electric, zero emission school bus fleet by September 1, 2035. The replacement of school buses will be subject to the commercial availability and reliability of all-electric zero emission school buses, and the technical and physical availability of related infrastructure, such as charging stations and bus depots for all-electric zero emission school buses. In addition, the bill also requires the DOE to report to the Mayor and Speaker on several implementation targets, establishing three reporting deadlines: July 1, 2023, 2028, and 2033.

Electric school buses are the cleanest alternative available with 70% less greenhouse gas emissions than diesel buses and zero tailpipe emissions. Committing to an all-electric school bus fleet transition gives New York City the opportunity to be leaders in the transition away from fossil fuel use. We can be an example to cities and developing urban ecosystems across the nation, demonstrating the implementation of sustainable development and how it benefits people, and particularly children.

Intro 455-A is expected to come up for a vote at the stated meeting this Thursday, October 7th, and we urge you to vote YES in favor of people and the planet. We believe that clean air is a right for all New Yorkers, but especially our children and most
vulnerable students. This bill is essential to protecting the health of our children, communities, and urban ecosystem. We look forward to continuing to work with the council, and supporting the passage of bold and progressive legislation.

Sincerely,

The New York City Clean School Bus Coalition:
NY League of Conservation Voters
WEACT for Environmental Justice
350 NYC
350 Brooklyn
Jobs to Move America
New York Lawyers for Public Interest
Parents for Improved School Transportation
Parent Advocates D.75
National Wildlife Federation
People’s Climate Movement
North Brooklyn Neighbors
EarthJustice
Alliance for Clean Energy NY