



SUPPORT

S. 3535 (Kennedy)

AN ACT to amend the transportation law, in relation to the purchase of zero-emission buses

The New York League of Conservation Voters supports S. 3535 (Kennedy), which would require any public transit system in New York State that receives state funding to only purchase zero-emission buses beginning in 2031.

Ahead of the release of its 2020-2024 Capital Plan, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority committed to having a 100% electric bus fleet by 2040. In 2020, Governor Cuomo set the same goal for all of the state's other public transit agencies. Currently, most buses in New York are fueled by diesel. This means that, even though buses are an important part of fighting climate change and reducing air pollution by reducing reliance on private vehicles, they can also be a source of local air pollution, especially in the neighborhoods immediately surrounding bus depots. Electrifying transit bus fleets will both reduce air pollution in environmental justice communities and advance the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act's requirement of economy-wide carbon neutrality by 2050.

S. 3535 would require all public transit agencies that receive state funding to only purchase zero-emission buses and associated infrastructure in the normal course of replacing their bus fleets beginning January 1, 2031. It would further direct the Department of Transportation to assist transit agencies in their transition to zero-emission buses, including through coordination of purchasing. This legislation is an important operationalization of New York's climate goals.

For these reasons, the New York League of Conservation Voters strongly urges passage of S. 3535.

Contact:
Patrick McClellan
(212) 361-6350 x 209
pmcclellan@nylcv.org

