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**JOBS TO MOVE
AMERICA**

November 06, 2017

Honorable Los Angeles City Council Members
200 N Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: LA DOT Transition to Zero Emissions Buses (Council File: 17-0739)

Dear President Wesson and Members of the City Council:

On behalf of the undersigned members of the Los Angeles County Electric Bus Coalition, we submit these comments on the motion to direct LA Department of Transportation (“DOT”) to a become a 100 percent zero emission bus fleet by 2030 or sooner. Our organizations wholeheartedly support this necessary move to cleaner bus technology. In addition, we support the suggested amendments to the policy that were introduced during the Transportation Committee hearing.

While this transition to 100 percent zero emission buses will take time and hard work to implement, the air quality and climate change imperatives demand this shift. As we move forward on this path to a zero emissions bus future, we

encourage LA DOT to engage in robust stakeholder outreach on three critical issues. First, we must ensure that the companies that make these new zero emissions buses do so with good jobs, which can be achieved by using the U.S. Employment Plan. Second, we must ensure robust integration of clean energy resources like solar and storage into the system, including installation of charging infrastructure in a manner that produces good jobs. This will also help ensure that the energy that powers these buses does not disproportionately impact communities. Finally, we highly encourage LA DOT to deploy zero emissions buses in disadvantaged communities first. We are happy to see all these issues addressed in the amendments to the motion.

This move by LA DOT will pay huge dividends to the lungs of millions in the region. As the California Air Resources Board has pointed out, “the first step in a broader strategy to accelerate the deployment of zero emission technologies begins with zero emission transit buses that are already in the early commercialization phase.”¹ Since the Air Resources Board produced that statement two years ago, zero emission bus technology has developed rapidly and Southern California is becoming the electric vehicle manufacturing hub for the nation. In recognition of this development, the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority recently made a parallel commitment to transitioning its full fleet of more than 2,200 buses to electric buses by 2030. In addition to the local benefits, this move demonstrates significant national leadership, which is critical in this time when our health and environmental safeguards are under attack.

These are exciting times to be in Los Angeles as we prepare for the Olympics. We can show the world we are global leader in transportation, and there is no better way to send that message than a 100 percent zero emission bus fleet powered by clean energy. As we embark on this necessary transformation to zero emission buses, we extend our coalition to help in any way we can.

Sincerely,



Adriano L. Martinez

Earthjustice

¹ California Air Resources Board, “Draft Technology Assessment: Medium- and Heavy-Duty Battery Electric Trucks and Buses,” at VIII-4 (October 2015).

President Wesson and Members of the Council

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