



SUMMIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Board of Education • 14 Beekman Terrace • Summit New Jersey 07901-1702 • 908-273-3025

Derek J. Jess, RSBA, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

February 29, 2024

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Climate Change Mitigation and Monitoring
P.O. Box 420
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Sir or Madam;

The Summit Board of Education is pleased to provide this letter in support of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) proposal to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Implementation Program. We support this grant application and look forward to helping the DEP accelerate the reduction in carbon emissions in New Jersey by funding the adoption of electric vehicles through an innovative school bus and site microgrid project.

The Summit Board of Education is dedicated to supporting the creation of a more environmentally sustainable community and improving the quality of life for community members, students, and families who are disproportionately affected by air emissions. Emissions from the transportation sector are the largest source of greenhouse gas pollution in New Jersey, contributing to climate change through higher temperatures, sea level rise, and more frequent extreme weather events. Because of this, increasing equitable access to electric school buses to students is a priority for the Summit Board of Education. We have taken an active approach in the mitigation of carbon emissions for our students. We have started to discuss the process of solar generation project development as well as discussions with the community for a future grid community connection project. To accelerate the emission reduction further, we are excited to take part in the innovative CPRG program that the DEP is proposing. Providing clean and equable transportation to students is necessary for any school district and this grant program provides a pathway for our school to offer such services.

We understand that, if awarded, the DEP seeks to assist us with procuring electric school buses, bi-directional charging infrastructure, renewable power generation, and a storage system, which will all be connected through a site-wide microgrid. Through this partnership, the DEP and the Summit Board of Education will ensure compliance with the standards and requirements of the EPA.

We appreciate the opportunity to support New Jersey in electrifying the school bus system and will continue to work with the DEP and other stakeholders to actively promote electric school buses. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your attention to and consideration of this project.

Very truly yours,

Derek J. Jess
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Summit Board of Education