Memorandum of Support

February 28, 2022

**Green Transit (S.3535-B/A.3090), Green Jobs bills (S.3405/A.2083)**

**Kennedy/Dinowitz**

**Purpose:** The Green Transit aspect of this bill package would phase in zero-emission buses and paratransit vehicles across New York State, requiring all public transportation systems to purchase only zero-emissions buses and related equipment starting in 2029 as part of the normal replacement of their fleets. The Green Jobs aspect of the bill package would require that evaluating procurement contract proposals for these buses and equipment be done under a best-value contracting framework.

**Statement of Support:** The transportation sector is one of New York State's most significant sources of climate-disrupting emissions, accounting for almost a third of the total. When transit agencies purchase new buses, it is important that these vehicles, which have a lifespan of over a decade, do not run on dirty greenhouse gas emitting fuels, but rather are emission free.

New York State public transportation authorities, including the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, make up the majority of bus procurements in the country. Where New York leads, the country follows. By setting the course for electrification, New York State signals to private companies that electric buses are the future. By setting this example, New York shows that our state is open to bus companies investing in our communities to support this new market for their products and create good green energy jobs. Benchmarks, including statewide electrification targets and emissions reductions goals, allow the electric bus industry to plan and expand capacity to ensure the transportation authorities are able to ramp up in enough time to meet their goals.

In addition to requiring that public transportation systems purchase zero-emission buses and related equipment and facilities starting in 2029, the legislation directs the Department of Transportation to give preference in formulating its capital plans to transit systems that demonstrate commitments towards purchasing clean buses and to facilitate coordination between public transportation systems for zero-emission bus purchasing, installation and sharing of services.

This legislation would also require public transportation systems to evaluate procurement contract proposals for these buses and related equipment using a system that incorporates a best-value contracting framework that incentivizes bidders to include good wages, benefits, and safety training in their proposals,
consider the community in which they operate, and make efforts to mitigate climate change.

This legislation has a simple premise: every public dollar we invest in clean transit infrastructure for the future should also contribute to good job creation in our communities. Sierra Club supports creating good jobs while reducing our greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector. These are policies that will have a myriad of public health benefits – particularly for bus drivers, depot workers, environmental justice communities, and riders – as well as help to prevent the worst impacts of climate change by reducing transportation emissions

The Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter Strongly Urges Your Support of S.3535-B/A.3090 and S.3405/A.2083.