

DONALD S. BEYER JR.
8TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
(VICE-CHAIR)

Congress of the United States
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Washington, DC 20515-4608

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April 26, 2021

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for one electric school bus and associated electric vehicle charging infrastructure for The City of Falls Church in fiscal year 2022. The entity to receive funding for this project is Falls Church City Public Schools, located at 150 S. Washington St. Ste 400, Falls Church, Virginia 22046.

The funding would be used for one electric school bus and associated electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure (to provide for a phase 2 set up to four buses), to realize energy and greenhouse gas emission reduction benefits of electric school buses. The City is an ideal location to demonstrate all of the advantages of electric vehicle adoption on a small scale, in a challenging environment that can prove the benefits. The proposed location of the charging station is one block from key infrastructure: two city schools, legacy commercial and residential real-estate, a major, new 10 acre commercial development already slated for construction, and further large developments in the future.

The City is well-known for its commitment to high quality public education, and community members are exceptionally engaged in the schools. Many parents move to this area specifically for the schools, and are willing to pay more in housing costs to do so. That does not mean, however, that they are not cost-conscious. Reduced lifecycle and operating costs for school buses would allow more funding to go to academic programs. The health benefits to our children from cleaner air and reduced noise in and around the buses also resonate strongly in a community rated one of the healthiest in the nation by U.S. News & World Report. Environmental sustainability and resilience are core values of our community, and Falls Church City Public Schools is an active partner in the City's goals. Our curriculum and outreach programs influence our students to understand the social and technical aspects of our use of energy resources.

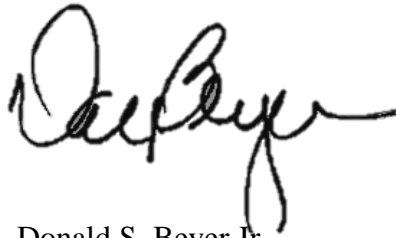
Replacing fossil fuel powered transportation with electric vehicles is essential to improve air quality in the City, and we are already working towards that goal. Eight Level 2 public chargers from the Electrify America program are located at City Hall. Public and residential charging and other energy-related requirements have been successfully negotiated for several major development projects in the City, and we are finishing construction of a net-zero-ready High School.

Knowing that vehicle-to-grid experimentation is a critical component of this program, we feel that the City is uniquely suited to serve as a partner with Dominion. We have flexible charging needs for the electric school buses and would work closely with Dominion staff to develop a

charging schedule that best suits the needs of the school district and the utility. The short bus routes with many stops and the flat terrain unique to our school district would make more of the battery available for discharge. We estimate these buses would be available for vehicle-to-grid charging approximately 75 percent of the time on weekdays, and close to 100 percent of the time on weekends. Shorter bus routes also allow for smaller battery capacity options, which will keep costs manageable.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Beyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress