



**National School Transportation Association**  
113 South West Street, 4th Floor Alexandria, VA 22314  
800-222-NSTA (6782) Fax: 703-684-3212  
www.yellowbuses.org Email: info@yellowbuses.org

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The Honorable Max Baucus  
United States Senate  
511 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Baucus:

We have become aware of efforts afoot that may threaten the federal fuel tax exemption for school buses. We call upon you to help defend against any effort to undo this important exemption, which would be tantamount to imposing a tax increase on private school bus transportation providers.

Since 1976, Congress has provided a full exemption for school bus transportation from the current 24.3 cent per gallon Federal diesel fuel tax. School bus transportation reduces congestion, alleviates roadway wear, reduces pollution, conserves fuel, removes cars from the road, provides access to education, and most importantly, saves young lives. School bus transportation is the safest form of transportation in the country.

The rationale for the Federal school bus fuel tax exemption is even more compelling today. The exemption costs the Highway Trust Fund only @\$146 million per year, but it has a huge impact on ensuring the continued availability of school bus transportation. 55% of the students in the nation rely on the school bus to get to and from school, and many of them have no other option.

The National School Transportation Association is a trade organization representing school bus contractors; that is, private companies that own and operate school buses and contract with school districts to provide pupil transportation. For 40 years, it has been dedicated to safe, secure and efficient transportation of children, and works to foster improvements in all areas of pupil transportation. Members range from small one- or two-bus companies to larger corporate entities operating more than 1,000 school buses in multiple states and provide 35-40% of the nation's school bus service.

Thank you for your consideration in support of this issue.

Sincerely,

David Hobson  
Executive Director