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Letter: Detroit needs propane school buses, not electric

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Every child deserves to have a safe, clean, healthy ride to and from school. The best way to provide that ride is not with the dirty diesel buses most adults rode to school and are used to transport children today. It's not with electric buses, either. Consider that up to three ultra-low emission propane school buses can be purchased for every one electric bus. That replaces more diesel buses faster and saves money. A propane refueling station can also be installed for low or no cost with a fueling contract. That's a lot cheaper than a bank of chargers.

Propane school buses eliminate the black smoke that comes out of a diesel tailpipe, and they dramatically reduce nitrogen oxides and carbon dioxide, known triggers for issues like asthma, bronchitis and other respiratory problems. Propane school buses are better for Detroit's children, better for its communities and better for the environment. Ultimately leading back to environmental justice. Everyone, no matter where they call home, deserves access to clean, affordable and reliable energy, as well as clean air to breathe. Propane provides all of that now. Propane buses are already here, with more than 500 already running on state roads. That's a good sample size, considering the 22,000 buses that are operating nationwide, transporting 1.3 million kids to school in 49 states. That includes Livonia Public Schools, which operates 22 propane buses and is paying almost \$1 less per gallon than diesel. Perhaps Detroit-area school districts and bus contractors should take a more vigilant look at propane buses, especially with the Aug. 22 deadline for the 2023 federal Clean School Bus Grant Program approaching. **Tucker Perkins**

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