

September 10, 2018

Dear Hon. Governor Baker and Mr. Ramírez, General Manager & CEO, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority,

The transportation sector accounts for the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Massachusetts and is the main cause of air pollution in cities. We, the undersigned, Boston city businesses, urge you to accelerate the electrification of our state transit fleets. This will both expand access to clean public transportation and help reduce carbon emissions that drive climate change.

Human activity, especially the burning of fossil fuels, is warming our climate and increasing the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. Here in Massachusetts, we are seeing heavier rainstorms, unprecedented storm surges and an increasing number of 90+ degree days. Small businesses like us are the hardest hit by these weather-related disruptions that reduce cash flows, and result in physical damage that can take months to repair. Businesses in the Commonwealth lost close to a billion dollars¹ in missed sales after storms earlier this year.

Converting our fossil fuel transit buses to zero emission electric buses is good for our climate, public health, and will help to lower our transportation emissions. Massachusetts has a total of fourteen zero emission electric buses in operation, six in Worcester, three in Springfield and five in Martha's Vineyard. In areas served by the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) five electric buses are expected to be in operation in Boston by 2018. This is far short of what is needed to meet our climate goals and our commitment to have 300,000 EVs on our roads by 2025. Further, as one of the largest public transportation agencies in the country, with over 1060 buses, MBTA is well positioned to lead on the switch to electric buses and can and should be doing much more.

Nearly 450,000 riders take an MBTA bus every day. MBTA routes that carry the highest volume of passengers often pass through low-income neighborhoods most dependent on the T, and hit hardest by air pollution. A recent study by the American Lung Association found that more than 109,000 asthma attacks, 220,000 lost work days and over 2,500 premature deaths are estimated to have resulted from passenger vehicle emissions in 2015 in Massachusetts and ZEV Program states².

Electric buses offer significant pollution reduction benefits and represent a key opportunity to improve public health. Battery electric buses have no tailpipe emissions and provide significant reductions in NOx, carbon monoxide and particulate matter emissions. Even after considering emissions from electricity generation, an electric bus emits the equivalent of 650 grams of carbon dioxide per mile, as compared to 3000 from a diesel and 2800 from a compressed

¹ <https://www.bizjournals.com/boston/news/2018/03/13/mass-businesses-losses-from-winter-storms-could.html>

² <http://www.lung.org/local-content/california/documents/2016zeroemissions.pdf>

natural gas bus. In addition, electric buses can be hundreds of thousands of dollars less expensive to fuel and maintain over its lifetime. Electric buses are quieter and have up to four times greater fuel efficiencies than natural gas or diesel buses³. Upfront costs of electric buses continue to drop with declining battery prices and advances in vehicle mileage.

Moving towards a zero-emission electric bus fleet will greatly improve air quality, especially in low income and communities of color that bear the brunt of air pollution related health risks. By transitioning vehicle fleets to majority EVs by 2050, Massachusetts could experience around \$2.9 billion in health and climate savings by 2050⁴.

At the United States Conference of Mayors⁵, more than 250 Mayors, including eight attending Mayors from Massachusetts voted to support the quick electrification of the transportation sector. Electric bus technology is being adopted by [large and small transit agencies](#) across the country and is ready to be a part of the mainstream. The Los Angeles Metro recently approved a plan to transition its fleet of over 2200 buses to electric by 2030. Seattle will be adding 120 electric buses over 3 years, Philadelphia announced it will add 25 electric buses to its fleet and even smaller cities like Eugene, Oregon have committed to 10 electric buses.

We, the undersigned Boston city businesses, support the transition of MBTA's fleet to zero emission electric buses so that we can meet our shared goals of reducing air pollution, lowering greenhouse gases and make our neighborhoods more welcoming.

We urge MBTA to take bold action to scale up investment in electric buses and commit to all zero emission electric bus purchases by 2030.

Respectfully,

J.P. Licks
Casa Verde
Café de Boston
Chacarero Chilean Restaurant
Bromfield Camera Co
Café 26
PLS Check Cashers
RAC Rent-A-Center
Black Market
Expressions
Galoof & Associates
Mabruuk Fashion Inc.
New York Pizza

Tres Gatos
Little Dipper
Manpower
Grassroots Café
Victoria's Jewelry
Frugal Bookstore
Brother Ahmed Barber Shop
PC Mobile Store
Kornfield Drug
Silver Slipper
Hala Meat Express
Final Touch Boutique
Darcy Barber Shop

³ <http://www.ucusa.org/sites/default/files/attach/2016/10/UCS-Electric-Buses-Report.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.lung.org/local-content/california/documents/2016zeroemissions.pdf>

⁵ http://legacy.usmayors.org/resolutions/85th_Conference/proposedcommittee.asp?committee=Energy

Farmer's Horse Coffee
Kang's Corner
Symphony Smoke
Sal's Barber Shop, Huntington Avenue
Sorella's Restaurant
Vecina Beauty Supply
Centre Fashion
Ignite Fitness Development
Nails 2000
Italian Pizza & Subs
Fiore's Bakery
40 South Street
Yumont True Value
Hatched
Revolution Bicycle
Wallpaper City
Threads
Boston Cheese Cellar
AAA Appliances
Optical Designs
Bukhara Restaurant
Kitchenwitch
Sal's Barber Shop, Jamaica Plain
Best Care Rehab Center
Centre Liquor
Atlantic Travel
Clean Green Services Solutions
The Haven
Pups n' Paradise
Cloud 9
Ferris Wheels
Peru Travel
Monumental Cupcakes
American Dry Cleaners
New Leaf Flores
Seymore Green
Wonder Nails
Rialto Barber Shop

Lucy Ethiopian Cafe
Symphony Market
Symphony Cleaner
UHOP Pizza
Centre Tailor
Alexandra Salon
J P Furniture
Italian Pizza
Julio's Barber Shop
Juicy Greens
Miss Laura's
Boomerangs
On Centre
Smoke Shop & Variety
Roslindale Fish Market
Birch Street House and Garden
Joanne Rossman
Mike's Locs & Braids
Station 8 Salon
Atlantic Dental Partners
Fire Opal
Boing Toy Shop
Blissful Monkey Yoga
Beauty Master Salon and Supply
Tails
Centre Street Dental
El Patio Market
Oriental de Cuba
Prophecy of the Beauty
Faith's Naturals
Fresh hair Salon
Polka Dot Bakery
Focus Real Estate
Centre Cleaners
Effies Kitchen
Alexandra Beauty Salon
Birch Flower Shop
Carmen Travel

CC: Mayor Martin J. Walsh, City of Boston

Stephanie Pollack, Secretary & Chief Executive Officer, Massachusetts Department of Transportation

MBTA Fiscal and Management Control Board (FMCB)