June 5, 2017

Acting Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC 20590

Subject: Martha’s Vineyard Transit Authority (VTA) is leading the charge to transition to an electric vehicle fleet in Massachusetts

To Whom It May Concern,

The Massachusetts Chapter of Sierra Club supports the comprehensive project being undertaken by Martha’s Vineyard Transit Agency (VTA) to move from diesel to a completely electric vehicle fleet. Funding the incremental cost of procuring four electric buses through the Lo-No program will allow VTA to get a head start on this transition. In addition, VTA is committed to investing in clean energy transportation by replacing every vehicle that is retired from their fleet (~ 4 vehicles every year) with an electric vehicle.

VTA’s planned use of battery storage in combination with solar energy to support the electrification of their bus fleet will help during emergencies like power outages, and storms; and allow VTA to avoid premium pricing during times of peak demand.

As a popular vacation destination visited by thousands of people annually, an electric bus fleet will allow residents and visitors to enjoy a clean, quieter ride while significantly lowering fueling and maintenance costs for VTA. This project will make charging infrastructure available for municipal and private vehicles, encouraging greater integration of electric vehicles in the community.

We hope that the Federal Transit Administration favorably considers this project that will accelerate a shift away from fossil fuels and help advance the deployment of electric buses in the state.

Sincerely,

Emily Norton
Chapter Director