

To the editor:

Westchester County has nearly reached the threshold of the two-degree Celsius increase in average temperature that scientists consider to be the "tipping point" for serious environmental damage from climate change. Yet the Croton-Harmon school board has proposed selling bonds to finance the purchase of two gasoline-powered vehicles.

Proposition 3 on the June 9 school board election ballot would provide funding for this purchase. Croton 100, a volunteer organization devoted to decreasing the community's carbon footprint, opposes the purchase of gas-guzzling school buses and believes the Croton-Harmon schools should immediately start to transition to an all-electric fleet in order to reduce its carbon emissions. As a member of Croton 100 living in Peekskill, carbon emissions and global warming impacts do not stop at jurisdictional voting boundaries and borders. Croton school bus emissions impact everyone in our globally shared common home.

With less than a decade left to turn back the clock on climate change, let's begin with electric buses. It's our chance now to make an impact and invest in our future. Voting "No" on Proposition 3 makes a statement about the need to make every effort to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels.

The additional \$80,000 is after subsidies and grants. It is the upfront savings from energy use (electricity rather than gas) and the lower maintenance. So, over the life of the bus, the savings in gas and maintenance amounts to about \$80,000.

The crux of this matter is that the school board would have to spent \$80,000 upfront, but with maintenance, that investment would will pay for itself in the long run. We need to start investing now and replace the old gasoline school buses with electric school bus. I am urging Croton-Harmon residents to vote "No" to Proposition 3.

**Carmina D'Angelo, Peekskill**