

Letters

To the editor:

The Croton-Harmon school district is about to walk away from \$200,000 of funding for an electric school bus. This amount is available in addition to the \$225,000 raised by successful passage of the recent transportation bond and a \$78,750 match from New York State.

The \$200,000 of subsidy funding consists of the New York Truck Voucher Incentive Program (NYTVIP) in the amount of \$120,000 (which requires scrapping an old diesel bus) and a limited-time special amount of \$80,000 from the Volkswagen settlement fund. That's \$200,000 of free money for an electric bus!

Consider this: the gas bus that the school district intends to buy costs \$120,000 while the electric bus which meets all requirements and is readily available would cost \$146,650 after subsidies. Not only is the difference in cost quite small, but lower maintenance and fuel costs will quickly recover the additional investment. Thus, financial considerations favor the electric bus!

This is a golden opportunity to take advantage of generous funding to begin electrification of our fleet. Tarrytown and other school districts have already applied for funding. The alternative is a gas bus that will emit tons of CO2 for many years to come.

Given the wildfires in California, Washington and Oregon, and the memory of Isaias and Lucy fresh in our memory, this is an unbearable burden on our collective conscience. We are adding to the problem of climate change instead of going the other way! We are harming those same future generations we seek to educate!

We understand that COVID-19 is causing great strain on the school district, but that is not a reason to pass up this time-sensitive opportunity. We, the board members of Croton100, stand by to facilitate the \$200,000 of funding, for which the district needs to apply by September 30. Time is of the essence!

As a reader, if you feel strongly that the district should take advantage to begin electrifying its fleet, please let the school board know at boe@chufsd.org with a copy to communications@croton100.org. We urge the school board to show leadership and translate sustainability intentions into actions.

Sincerely,

**Steven Bluestone, Patty L. Buchanan,
Mary F. McBride, Daniel Oppenheim,
Chandu Visweswariah and
Leo Wiegman on behalf of Croton100**