

Rep. Schiff – Testimony in Support of Schiff-Chu-Richardson

Amendment to H.R. 7

February 14, 2012

Chairman, Ranking Member and other Members of the Committee thank you for providing me the opportunity to speak in support of the amendment to American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act of 2012 (H.R. 7) that I have submitted, along with Ms. Chu and Ms. Richardson. This amendment would reinstate the National Fuel Cell Bus Program as the Zero Emission Bus Program. This makes the program technology neutral and continues a public-private partnership that has leveraged billions of private dollars for the development and early deployment of zero emission bus programs.

The National Fuel Cell Bus Program was established in SAFETEA-LU and facilitates the development of fuel cell bus technologies through a competitive grant process. The grant program requires a minimum 50% non-federal cost share and has been used by partnerships between non-profits, private technology companies and

transit agencies across the country to leverage private funds to develop and employ buses that produce zero emissions.

Unfortunately, the underlying bill eliminates this vital program that have helped communities across the country contribute solutions to the press challenging of climate change and create much-needed local jobs. Our amendment strikes the language in the bill eliminating the program and reestablishes the program as the National Fuel Cell Bus Program. The reconstituted National Fuel Cell Bus Program will be technology neutral – supporting the development of commercially viable zero emission buses through both fuel cell technology and batteries. This will provide the partnerships supported by this program even more avenues through which to achieve zero emission buses, so that more communities across the country can enjoy the benefits of improved air quality. The Congressional Budget Office and the Budget Committee have indicated to our offices that this amendment will not create any new spending obligations.

I urge the Committee to make this amendment in order, so that the full House can have the opportunity to vote on continuing this valuable program.