

February 12, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier, Ontario  
Premier@Ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford,

We are writing regarding the Government of Canada's response to U.S. President Trump's announcement about tariffs on aluminum and steel products - along with the potential for additional tariffs on other industries in Canada. Any retaliatory tariffs would send prices in Canada skyrocketing for many school buses and school bus parts – forcing student transportation costs to soar across Ontario and Canada. My company, (XXXX) located in (XXXX) employs approximately (XXXX) and any retaliatory tariffs would be extremely harmful for our company.

The supply chain for school bus manufacturing is global in nature, with major components, parts and finished goods made in both the United States and Canada. For example, many critical parts manufacturers which produce engines, transmissions, and electrical systems are based in the United States - there are no manufactures in Canada for these components.

Girardin Blue Bird is located in Quebec and produces Type A school buses, which seats up to 30 passengers, and Quebec-based Lion Electric which produces full size school buses. Thomas Built buses, IC Bus and others have a presence in Canada and operate in Canada, but their primary manufacturing is in the U.S. Many components and bus parts and replacement parts are manufactured in the U.S. and our supply chain is very much tightly integrated.

The impending tariffs on any part of our supply chain would create severe economic consequences for the student transportation sector – making school busing even more expensive and adding significant costs to Ontario's treasury, school boards and taxpayers. Further, all of this additional cost pressure, will exacerbate the school bus driver shortage which is already a significant problem. Ultimately, any long-term tariff war would impact the school bus operators in Ontario, which are all independently owned businesses operating in every community of the province and could potentially result in insolvencies and layoffs. Increased costs for school busing may lead to cuts to student transportation, impacting access to education for many students in Ontario.

The student transportation sector in Ontario is approximately \$2B industry and employs over 30,000 school bus drivers, dispatchers, mechanics and others.

**We therefore are respectfully asking that you work with your federal colleagues to exempt our sector from any retaliatory tariffs.**

Please contact me should you have any questions,

INSERT NAME