



For Immediate Release

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March 22, 2021

NSTA URGES TREASURY SECRETARY YELLEN TO EXPEDITE IMPLEMENTATION OF CERTS ACT PROGRAM

As private school bus contractors throughout the country continue to rebound from the adverse financial effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, the National School Transportation Association (NSTA) wrote to Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen in an effort to expedite implementation of the Coronavirus Economic Relief for Transportation Services Act (CERTS) Act.

Private school bus operators provide nearly 40 percent of the nation's school bus service in 200,000 yellow school buses with close to 380,000 employees. Each day, almost 26 million children rely on the school bus as their primary way to get to school in the safest way possible.

But the industry also suffered severe economic losses and furloughed thousands of employees over the course of the pandemic. NSTA estimates private school bus operators have lost nearly \$8 billion in revenue since March 2020, mostly due to state-mandated school closures. In December, Congress authorized a direct relief program (CERTS Act) for private transportation service contractors that was contained in the Consolidated Appropriations Act for 2021. The \$908 billion overall package contained \$2 billion for the Coronavirus Economic Relief for Transportation Services Act (CERTS) Act. The industry vigorously advocated for this aid since the measure was introduced in May 2020.

In the letter to Yellen, Curt Macysyn, NSTA executive director wrote, "NSTA has been encouraged in our meetings with the Department of Treasury and Transportation, and we stand ready to provide continuing assistance during this implementation stage. In closing, we emphasize that as CERTS continues to be developed, it is imperative that the pillars of the program be the efficient and equitable distribution of relief funds. Covid-19 affected all aspects of our industry similarly, and we look forward to the release of these funds as authorized by Congress as soon as possible."

"As more schools reopen their doors to in-class learning, it's important to recognize the important role that student transportation maintains in providing equity and access in education. Additionally, providing access to funds authorized by Congress gives school bus operators the needed bridge to transition from the disruptions of 2020 to a complete return to the classroom for students," according to NSTA President John Benish of Cook-Illinois Corporation.

NSTA notes that the Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) for 2021 that contains the CERTS Act was enacted on December 27, 2020. A copy of the NSTA letter to Secretary Yellen is attached to this release.

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About NSTA: National School Transportation Association has been the voice of private school bus contractors, manufacturers and suppliers since 1964. The association provides school transportation professionals with the tools and resources they need to make school buses safe, affordable, and efficient nationwide.