



**SPUR**

San Francisco | San Jose | Oakland

September 4, 2020

Governor Gavin Newsom  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Delivered via email to: [Leg.Unit@gov.ca.gov](mailto:Leg.Unit@gov.ca.gov)

**SIGNATURE REQUESTED: AB 841 (Ting) Healthy, Efficient Schools and Electric Vehicle Infrastructure**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of SPUR, we are writing to request your signature on AB 841 by Assembly Member Ting. This bill creates a program to make the air safer to breathe and the water safer to drink in public schools, while reducing energy bills. It also accelerates installation of infrastructure for zero-emission vehicles needed to combat the largest source of dangerous local air pollution that exacerbates the health risks associated with COVID-19.

AB 841 does not use any money from the general fund; instead it uses only money already authorized by the CPUC that has not yet been allocated to programs, for a period of just 3 years. AB 841 directs these funds to a program administered by the California Energy Commission (CEC) to upgrade heating, cooling, and ventilation systems in public schools, prioritizing schools in underserved communities and those near freeways or industrial pollution. It also provides funds to replace aging and inefficient water fixtures and appliances in schools, saving water and energy while reducing exposure to lead. Allocating energy efficiency funds for a period of three years to employ workers to make schools safer and more energy efficient is a timely and important investment. Safe schools with manageable energy bills benefit all Californians including parents that need to work and businesses that need employees on the job.

In addition, installing electrical equipment needed to charge electric cars, trucks and buses not only keeps workers on the job at a time when unemployment is soaring, it accelerates transportation electrification that puts downward pressure on electric rates and bills to the benefit of all utility customers. According to Synapse Energy Economics, EV drivers in Southern California Edison and Pacific Gas & Electric territory have already contributed more than \$800 million in excess of associated costs, money that is automatically

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returned to all customers in the form of lower rates. At a moment when many Californians are struggling, the state should expand access to EV charging that puts downward pressure on utility bills.

AB 841 would increase employment, reduce deadly air pollution, and help improve the health, safety and efficiency of school buildings, all without exacerbating California's budgetary challenges. We request your signature on AB 841. If you have questions, please contact Victoria Rome with NRDC at [vrome@nrdc.org](mailto:vrome@nrdc.org).

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicholas Josefowitz". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Nick Josefowitz  
Chief of Policy, SPUR